

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Sahithi Vemula <sahithivemula@gmail.com>
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To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Nigro, Rachelle (SMD 2G06)
Subject: "Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services"

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“Written Testimony in Opposition from 200 ft Real Property Address- Case 21177 ”

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Sahithi Vemula, and I reside at 475 K St NW. My property falls within the 200-ft radius map, and I am urging the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny the special exception relief requested by the District of Columbia Department of General Services for the temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Ave NW.

The construction and operation of this facility will have a detrimental and profound impact on our neighborhood, blatantly violating the Zoning Regulations and Maps. The substantial increase in detainees and cells will introduce severe, lasting consequences, including:

- **Constant disruptions:** With six police forces operating 24/7 to transport detainees, our community will face relentless noise and activity at all hours of the day and night.
- **Noise pollution:** Over eighty detainees in close proximity will create persistent noise, disrupting the peace and quiet that residents, businesses, and organizations rely on.
- **Traffic congestion:** A sharp rise in police vehicles, employees, and vendors will create gridlock, overwhelming our streets and making daily life challenging.
- **Heightened security risks:** The potential release of detainees into the community poses serious safety concerns, particularly for vulnerable populations, including the nearby Bambini Child Care Center, whose parents and staff are already deeply distressed.

This proposed relocation threatens to reverse the years of progress that have transformed this area from one of neglect into a vibrant, thriving neighborhood. We have worked hard to create a community where families, businesses, and organizations can flourish. Allowing this project to move forward would undo that progress and inflict irreversible harm on the fabric of our community.

I respectfully urge the Board to reject this proposal and direct DGS to find a more suitable, less disruptive location for the facility. Our community deserves better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Sahithi Vemula
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