

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

**From:** Nathan Epstein <nathan.epstein.1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 9:00 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Opposition to Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Hello,

I am a homeowner on the 1100 block of 6th street northwest. I bought the home in 2023. A large part of the reason why I decided to invest in DC, was because of the language I saw from the DC goverment regarding the planned economic revitalization of downtown DC.

I listened. I'm here. I'm not independely wealthy. I've taken the largest loan I've taken in my life and I invested that here.

It's my opinion that with the decision to place the jail here, Washington DC is demonstrating a lack of commitment to the economic future of the downtown, and it's not being faithful to it's commitment.

Just listen to the business leaders. I listened to the call where Boston Properties stated their objections to the jail. They are planning over 1 billion dollars in investment, 500 apartments, and developing one of the last prime spots steps from the Downtown BID area, which would be across the street from this jail.

What is a more effective way to revitalize the downtown than 500 new apartments? It wasn't just them. All the buisness leaders and residents in in the area don't want it. Why would they build here when they can chose to avoid the risk associated with this jail?

But more importantly, why would you build the jail here and risk this? More housing adjacent to the downtown is critical for the long term viability of the downtown area.

What makes more sense, would be to adjust the downtown BID to include this area as well. Why have a bizzare squiggle just for 600 Mass? (the management of 600 mass is also opposed to the jail by the way).

The BID should just run from 600 mass, and then include the 1000 6th st block on both sides. It is part of the downtown, and I think you would be much better just recognizing that, and helping to support the economic activiy here, instead of adveserly impacting it.

I understand you are in a difficult spot becuse nobody wants this. But we need to fight it for our own interest. I need to fight it for my interest. But I have my interest staked here, because I listended to your gouvernement. And that feels like a betrayal to me. And if we can't fight this and win, that means downtown DC can't win.

Please.

-Nathan Epstein