

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Justin DiCharia <jdicha4@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:16 AM
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 - Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Justin A. DiCharia and I reside at 425 M St. NW Apt. C, Washington DC, 20001. My phone number is 985-960-1395 and my email address is jdicha4@gmail.com.

I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny the special exception relief sought by the District of Columbia Department of General Services for the proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Ave NW.

As a first-time home owner (as of April 2024), the potential for a Central Cell Block that would undoubtedly negatively impact my and neighbor's properties is truly frightening. The construction of the Central Cell Block will lead to increased security concerns, traffic, and noise.

While the City Government has claimed--*without explanation*--that no detainees would be released from the Central Cell Block, any such practice would likely be unconstitutional. At the point in which the Government decides it can no longer detain the individual, it must release them. Bussing or transporting detainees to other locations would continue their detention without cause and thus would likely be unconstitutional.

The proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue, N.W., will have a direct, significant, and adverse effect on the residents, business owners, and community organizations nearby. This neighborhood has undergone transformation over decades from a state of neglect, characterized by parking lots and dilapidated houses, to a vibrant area with mixed-use residential developments. We are asking that this Project not be allowed to undo that progress and that DGS be directed to find a more appropriate and less impactful location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Justin A. DiCharia
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Cell: 985-960-1395