

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Maeghan Buckley <maebuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 6:23 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Nigro, Rachelle (SMD 2G06)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Maeghan Buckley and I am a recent first time home buyer, purchasing a home at 437 New York Ave NW, Unit 320. 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. The construction of the Central Cell Block, necessitating special exception relief, will detrimentally, adversely, and significantly impact the neighboring properties in direct violation of the Zoning Regulations and Maps. The substantial increase in cells and detainees will lead to heightened traffic, noise, and security concerns, including, but not limited to:

- Disruptions from the facility's 24/7 operations due to six police forces transporting detainees to the facility.
- Noise pollution from potentially over eighty detainees and from increased activity at the building.
- Increased traffic from police, employees, vendors, etc., leading to congestion.
- Safety risks associated with the potential release of detainees into the community -most notably to the community organizations and business that cater to children. The facility's proximity to Bambini Child Care Center is causing great distress among parents and staff. The proposed cellblock is also just feet from residential property.

D.C. continues to look at ways to improve downtown D.C., including safety, increase revenues, and attract businesses. Placing a cellblock so close to high-traffic areas, including the Convention Center and the Arena goes against these priorities for the District and will ultimately hurt it. This will decrease home values and safety and is a real concern. Had this cellblock been in place when I was considering potential homes, I would not have chosen to purchase my current home due to the safety concerns.

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. I am 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.

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Maeghan M. Buckley

maebuck@gmail.com

603-560-5987

437 New York Ave NW, Apt 320