

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Kate Natrass <knatrass@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” Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Kate Natrass and I reside at 440 L St NW, Unit 512. I am writing to strongly 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 in a neighborhood that already struggles with all three of these issues. For instance, on many weeknights, the intersection immediately across from the proposed site of the new Cell Block is gridlocked due to the rush hour commute and back up on the 395 tunnel. Increased traffic from police, employees, vendors (etc), not to mention the proposed facility's 24/7 operations due to six police forces transporting detainees to the facility will make this area of the city impossible to traverse due to traffic.

Our neighborhood has worked diligently and hand-in-hand with law enforcement to reduce crime in our community. The addition of a new Cell Block with the release of detainees into the community raises significant safety risks for everyone in the immediate proximity -- from local businesses to residents and in particular schools and childcare facilities. It is of significant concern that this proposed new Cell Block is *literally* across the street from the Bambini Child Care Center.

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.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my firm opposition to the granting of the special exception to the applicant in this matter. Thank you for your consideration --

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