

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Wanda Ng Fontana <wfontana@projectbigfish.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2018 11:58 AM  
**To:** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Zoning Case 02-381

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing about the on-going traffic congestion on 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, in front of the DCRA, between M and I Streets. I understand Forest City is about to develop on the two open lots at Waterfront Station, so I urge you to reconsider the traffic situation before proceeding with this huge development.

As a resident of Waterfront Tower, I am seeing and experiencing all the developments coming up around us. Traffic has gotten considerably more congested in the last 3-4 years. One of the main problem area is on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. While blocking off a small part of the median helped, it only forced drivers (including government cars) to park in the median further north, in front of CVS.

There is a new apartment – in front of my building – at 3<sup>rd</sup> and M Streets that is almost complete. The amount of trucks, cranes, all the construction vehicles and closed roads during this process has been a challenge to navigate these past two years. I cannot even fathom what the traffic will look like when Forest City begin development on BOTH sides of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. More discussions and careful planning MUST be put into place before Forest City begins.

DDOT needs to enforce stricter parking regulations on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. One big issue is to change the parking where the food trucks are. As of now, the spaces in front of Safeway have become the personal (and FREE!) parking spaces for the three regular food trucks. They move their beat-up/eye-sore cars in 'their' spaces when they leave for the night. In the mornings, they come back to move the cars out and move their food trucks in. This has been on-going for months. How is this even legal?? This is not right! The parking signs should really be short-term parking (i.e. 15 minutes or less). And those spaces should be used for people doing quick business with DCRA, disabled drivers or running in to pick up something at CVS or Safeway. Those public parking spaces should NOT be the food trucks personal parking spaces!! I am a small business owner myself and support small businesses, but they are clearly taking advantage of the parking spaces. PLEASE change this. They must move elsewhere to elevate the congestion. I understand a big part of their business are the office workers. But they can move to a less congested street, spread out, or only come during breakfast or lunch times.

Drivers /Ubers are also double parking. Sometimes, they are double parked right next to the food trucks and expect other drivers to 'squeeze' by. This make it impossible for cars to get through. The new Forest City development must include pick-up/drop-off areas. Or designate one of the food truck spots for pick-up/drop-off with no more than 5 minutes wait time.

As a Waterfront Tower resident, I drive down the private driveway to get to my parking lot. This is the one-way lane that runs parallel to M street. Everyday this driveway becomes a parking lot for Safeway shoppers (EMS, police, government workers), delivery trucks, Well Fargo, landscapers, etc. Taxis and Ubers continually block the entrance. Or drivers who are not familiar with the flow end up driving against the one-way direction. It is very dangerous for pedestrians, especially since most pedestrians prefer to walk on the driveway and not the sidewalk. If the LEO or Waterfront Towers needed EMS, they would not be able to get in. Most of the time the egress from M Street is jammed up with construction vehicles from 7am – 3pm.

What I described are everyday occurrences. During Nat's game days/play-offs, the congestion is twice or at times three times as bad. When there are festivals, special events at the Wharf or a major concert at Anthem, traffic clogs up as well.

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.02-381  
EXHIBIT NO.103

It becomes impossible to get through and more importantly what if firetrucks and EMS has to get through?? Then it becomes someone life or death situation. We cannot afford to let that happen. Several times, I've seen EMS getting stuck on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and it takes precious minutes for cars to flow out onto M Street because there is NO WHERE to pull to the side.

Widening the street does not seem feasible, but perhaps consider no parking during certain times.

Not only are there more drivers and bicyclists, there are even more pedestrians. Please, I URGE this department to review the current traffic flow and please change it so it is safer everyone – residents, workers and visitors alike.

Sincerely,  
Wanda Ng

Waterfront Tower  
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