

Dear Commissioners:

I am Geraldine Bell, a resident of the Parkside Area and the President of the Parkside Civic Association (PCA). I have been a resident of the Parkside area for over 15 years. From the time I moved into the area, there have been no conveniences except for a small "Circle 7" convenience store, that charges outrageous prices for the goods it offers.

From the point when the residents began to hear that there was going to be a new builder, around year 2000, the whole area has been anxious and happy knowing that we would be getting new facilities that would probably have stores and cleaners and other amenities that would be useful to us and save us time and distance from going to Maryland to do our shopping.

Since becoming president of PCA, some 3 years ago, we have constantly had builders of different possible enterprises come to our civic meeting to present and inform us of what phase they were in or to explain their plans. Mr. Chris Lopiano, has come many times, in support of Educare, UDC and the Health Care Clinic. And he has been very clear about some of the construction and what the benefits would be from it, like having better health care access, better educational access and jobs.

One of the main concerns in our area is safety and we believe with the increased daytime and nighttime activity which will be the result of CCDC and the Health Care Clinic, as well as improved lighting on the streets in Parkside, we will have the greatest deterrent to crime.

Parkside residents deserve investment, resources, and employment and educational opportunities - the land at Parkside has sat vacant, unused, and an attractor for crime for too long. I have lived here for over 15 years and have looked forward to the day the area would be fully developed and the community would have access to good grocery stores, cleaners and amenities that would make it a better functioning neighborhood, one we all could be proud of.

A flagship campus community college, a privately-run primary healthcare clinic, and a state-of-the-art early childhood education center (Educare) are important amenities for the Parkside community, not "social services". Amenities like these will attract homeowners, renters, and visitors to the community, which will in turn draw greater investment and a more diverse population.

Sincerely,

Geraldine S. Bell

PLANNING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
NO. 05-28E  
EXHIBIT NO. 35  
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District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 05-28E  
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