

My name is Carolyn G. Mitchell and I am Vice President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and I'm here in support of the ANC-6D's resolution opposing eight additional Nationals parking lots that will accommodate 2,950 cars located directly adjacent to residential Southwest.

My organization's mission is to improve the quality of life for all residents of Southwest. Our actions are guided by five goals:

1. To assess, record, and monitor the quality of life as related to the issues of concern.
2. To evaluate existing programs, public and private, that are related to those subjects of concern and that affect the quality of life in Southwest.
3. To support improvements in those programs.
4. To facilitate the creation of new programs, public or private, to meet unfilled needs.
5. To work to overcome social, racial, and economic barriers in Southwest.

There have been numerous meetings with the Nationals, the Transportation Department, Councilmen Wells and various other organizations regarding parking and it has been stated by the

Nationals that these additional parking areas are not needed, so to hear that the (Text Amendments – Temporary Ballpark Accessory Surface Parking Lot) Z.C. Case No. 07-08A had been submitted is not only alarming to me, but to all residents of Southwest. Parking, already too few spots, traffic backup at rush hour prolonging arrival time at home, and now a request to add 2,950 cars to the equation. I ask,

- What type of quality of life is this for the residents of Southwest that already have to park sometimes up to 2 blocks away from their homes, how long will they have to ride around looking for parking in order to acquire a spot, if the temporary lots are approved?
- Safety is also a concern if required to park more than 2 blocks from ones home.
- How much later will residents arrive at home due to added cars in their neighborhood?
- How much later will residents that utilize public transportation arrive at home due to added cars in their neighborhood?

- What's to guarantee that if the temporary parking lots are approved, that visitors to the lots will not scout out the neighborhood at their next visit looking for street parking now that they are aware of the area?

“Temporary” parking lots, in my short time in the District I’ve learned that temporary often means 10 years or longer. For six months out of the 12 months per year the National’s will host 13 to 16 games a month, some running as long as 2 weeks at a time, while baseball, the all American game, is being played many residents are either being held hostage in their homes, scared to leave due to the risk of not have a place to park upon returning, unable to return home after a long day a work due to no place to park. Finally what will this do the week-end family gatherings in Southwest, they will become non-existing, no where to park.

And I concluded with this question, is this the quality of life you would like for your family?

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly stands strong and solid in support of ANC-6D’s resolutions in opposing any additional parking lots in Southwest.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to participate in this inspiring process. We look forward to working together to create a brighter future for our community.