

Hello,

My name is Matthew Singerman. I am a homeowner in the District of Columbia. I am writing to address concerns I have regarding the proliferation of "pop-up" housing in neighborhoods which have traditionally been single-family rowhouses. The increase of these housing types (and conversion of houses into condo units) has been increasing in my neighborhood, and it is a worrying trend for several reasons. Firstly, there is little if any neighborhood involvement or notice about the work being done, to the point where people have woken up to construction equipment next door with no idea that work was being done. In addition, because of this, there has been minimal neighborhood input into the process or end results. Because of this lack of input, much of the work being done is substandard and has in fact done damage to neighboring properties. As these dwellings are converted from single-family houses to multi-unit condos, public amenities which are typically used on a per-household basis will be strained. I am specifically thinking of on-street parking - a single family will only use one or two cars, but a four-unit condo building will almost certainly have more, potentially having many more depending on the number of people residing in them.

I wholeheartedly support finding ways to increase the amount of housing in DC by increasing density around transit hubs and even by allowing accessory dwelling units, but allowing new condo buildings to be built as a matter of right is not the way to go. Protect our houses and allow us to have input in our community. Thank you.

Submitted on 9/15/2014 by:
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