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We purchased our first home in Southwest DC in 2004. We choose the waterfront because it was a family friend community that held the promise of getting even better over time. Our family could grow along with it.

Seven years later, I am deeply concerned that the City is going to blow this once in a lifetime opportunity to redevelop the waterfront. We all know the last attempt was a failure and it has taken 30 years for a second chance to ~~come~~ materialize.

I want to see change and the waterfront revitalized. But as a mother of two young children, I believe the current proposal is flawed and the impact on our family, and others in the community will be adverse and long lasting.

Zoning requirements are established for the good of the city. Yet, this proposal asks the Zoning Commission to waive existing rules ~~effectively greasing the wheels for making federal parkland part of the deal~~. As set out below, the proposal boils down to high density housing with less roadway, less sidewalk and virtually no open spaces to accommodate it.

Emergency Services will be adversely impacted. Proposed high density housing and reductions to traffic routes will mean potentially dangerous wait times for emergency services. As the mother of a five-year-old liver transplant patient, I cannot rely on a taxi or metro to take our son to Children's hospital or Georgetown because an ambulance is stuck in the M Street bottleneck. On its face, this proposal puts the profits of the developer over the rights and safety of community residents.

Our children are in the DC public schools. Yet, the proposed plan will make it impossible for young children to walk safely to the neighborhood elementary school and middle school because of the anticipated traffic congestion.

The federal park along the waterfront is a source of great joy for those in the community – especially the children who play and learn to ride their bikes there. But as I understand the plan, the federal parkland will be lost for good.

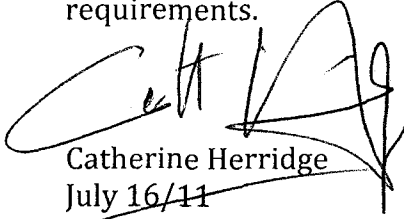
Why is the city apparently bending over backwards to waive the existing rules for an out of town developer whose briefing to local residents was thin on detail and ignored community input?

As a graduate of Harvard College and the Columbia Journalism School my experience as an investigative reporter, over two decades, suggests the deal may be corrupt. While tonight I cannot offer firm evidence, I would note that the only

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District of Columbia
CASE NO. 11-03
EXHIBIT NO. 68

beneficiaries are the developer and the city council members. I hope my impression is wrong.

I urge the Zoning Commission not to give variances at this time. I urge the Commission to consider applications that are in accordance with existing zoning requirements.



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July 16/11