

May 27, 2013

Commissioner Hood, Members of the Zoning Committee, Distinguished Invited Guests,
My name is Katherine Young I have lived at number 16, the unit block of Franklin St. Northeast since 1987. Every day, I walk onto North Capitol St across from McMillan Park. Although I am not a 200 footer, I am a 250 footer. I am also a recent former Stronghold Civic Association Vice-President and a founding member of the McMillan Park Committee in 1989 I am a native Washingtonian and my family has lived in Washington, DC continuously since 1916.

The impaired hearing and vision of the DMPED officials and their consultant VMP requesting a CR and C-3-C zoning along with their accompanying hubris, greed and obliviousness to national mandates and local creative solutions from our community appall and offend me. The deaf ears of our council member from ward 5 and our ANC representative for Stronghold sadden me even more.

I will address the applicant's CR Zoning request for a 13 story building on the McMillan Park Eastern Sand Filtration Park and Site A building with its own burden of cars will impact the already severe traffic, crashes, ambulance near-misses on North Capital Street.

A 13 story building will also impact our collective need to protect a historic vista in our nation's capital, and block this vista of American history which is a national treasure, part of an aesthetic asset belonging to all Americans. Everyday I take one of the H buses to and from work Along Michigan Ave. I make sure to look south taking in reminders of our history. the Adams building's vaulted roof at the Library of Congress, the Capital, the Post Office Pavilion, the Washington Monument and beyond to the shores of Virginia.- a former slave state. I then sweep my eyes over to Howard University's Founders Hall Tower situated nobly above McMillan Reservoir. I was amazed to see this vista on family trips to New York at the end of the 1950s when I was six years old with a great-grandmother born during the Civil War then still alive. This is the only clear- horizon vista drivers and pedestrians have along the east-west corridor of Michigan Avenue from which they can appreciate our capital from this side's high ground This is also, the only publicly accessible high ground vista in our neighborhood For the 4th of July, my neighbors and I sit at the fenced hilltop on the north side of Michigan Ave opposite McMillan Park watching fireworks over the Mall. We are barred from higher and private ground at The US Soldiers and Airmens Home, the VA Hospital and Catholic University A thirteen story building and other high-rises on McMillan Park will block this view for my fellow citizens and future generations of Americans and international visitors

Why does the city and its consultant impair our vision and our history? Do not destroy this vista Give us back our public land Let us descend the still-existing steps into the Park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr into caverns that could be creatively re-used for a variety of cultural, recreational, low density commercial and civic purposes.

Katherine T. Young, 16 Franklin St. NE, Washington, DC 20002
202-234-0427, kittamit@hotmail.com