

George W. Crawford Testimony Before the Zoning Commission

May 1, 2014

Good evening My name is George W Crawford. With me is my wife Harriet Crawford. My wife and I have lived in the 2300 block of First Street, NW (two blocks from the McMillan Sand Filtration Site) since 1985. I served as President of the Bloomingdale Civic Association from 1988 through 1990 In 1990 the civic association adopted a resolution supporting development of the site. The resolution supports development of the park, community facility, housing for senior citizens, a day-care facility for seniors and children, a library, police substation, and affordable housing for low-and moderate-income families

My family and many of our neighbors have watched this community grow and change over time, and have considered proposals for McMillan through the years. While there have been many different ideas for the site, one thing has remained constant: the fences have stood as a barrier for decades

Since 2007, this community has been working with the Vision McMillan Partners team to create a development that will benefit the entire community – and I think we have gotten pretty close. Of course, we can't always make everyone happy, and as we are all well aware, this has been a contentious issue over the years. But I must say that the overwhelming majority of my neighbors are excited to finally have open, usable and walkable space.

We are excited for a much-needed grocery store and other local retail We are eager to benefit from the significant local investment that this development will bring.

In 1988, the first year I served as President of the civic association, my son was six (6) years old and we looked forward to walking with him in the park. Twenty-six (26) years later our son has a six (6) year old daughter, maybe we can play with her in the park. We urge the approval of the Vision McMillan plan for development of the site.

Thank you We are available to answer any questions you have.

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ROUND 2

Making a Case for Progress

On Dec. 16 J. Jackson Walter, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, wrote about the historic value of the McMillan Reservoir ["At Stake, Not Only Open Land, but a Landmark," *Close to Home*, Dec. 16].

Walter wrote that decisions already have been made to choose a developer without ensuring that plans "take into account the reservoir's historic character," and concluded by asking, "What's the rush?"

It appears Walter has not reviewed the proposals competing for the development rights to the McMillan site. If he had, he would know that both proposals have considered its historic significance. But Walter missed the real reasons for development and the need to move rapidly.

The Bloomingdale area needs more than "ivy-covered towers and cavernous underground vaults." In fact, a resolution concerning the development adopted by the Bloomingdale Civic Association includes among

its goals a full-service library, a community facility, a police substation, a park area, an educational trust fund, housing for senior citizens, a day-care facility for seniors and children and affordable housing for ownership by low- and moderate-income families.

Also to be derived from the development is additional space needed by Children's Hospital, not to mention thousands of jobs for District residents and millions of dollars in tax revenues to the District.

Surely these components of the development should take priority over an inoperative "19th century water purification system for the capital city."

Certainly there is merit in historic preservation, but preserving the past cannot take priority over preserving the present and future.

*—George W. Crawford
is president of the Bloomingdale
Civic Association.*