

Hello everyone. My name is Jose Eduardo Hernandez and I would like to express my support for the change in zoning for Lanier Heights to R-4 from the current R-5-B.

I grew up in the house at 1764 Lanier Place with my 12 siblings. Eight of us attended DC public schools, including HD Cooke, Wilson, Francis, and the school at 16th and Irving. The other siblings were older by the time we moved there. My parents, Jose and Candelaria Hernandez, still own the house and have lived there for 31 years. They have worked hard on the maintenance and care of that house and me and my siblings still spend a lot of time there visiting our parents – they have worked hard all of their lives to take care of that house. On special occasions like birthdays and Mother’s Day, most of my siblings and their children go to our parents’ house and enjoy celebrating in the back yard. My parents grow a wide variety of plants and trees in the back yard, some of which come from our native El Salvador.

The developer who bought the house plans to build a 50-foot tall building (existing houses are only 31 feet) that occupies the entire property. There is already a six-story apartment building behind us and after this new building is built, there will be no sun in my parents’ back yard. How could someone be allowed to build a huge building that is so out of scale with the adjacent row houses, and take away the sunshine from my parents who love to garden, and who grow some of their food in the back yard?

The people who are doing this are going to make a lot of money off of stealing the sunshine away from my parents, and they are not even going to live there. They will just build the EDIFICIO, and walk away from this neighborhood.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 15-09
EXHIBIT NO. 120
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My parents are also very worried about what this construction will do to their foundation, and the common wall in between these attached houses. Demolishing 1766 Lanier Place will affect the structural integrity of the two houses attached to each side. My parents are also worried about what will happen to their roof with the neighboring roof towering over theirs, causing snow to drift and water to damage the roof. My parents are in their mid-80's in age, and live on a limited income. The stress of dealing with these worries, in addition to all of the noise that will be associated with construction is too much for octogenarians to have to deal with. They cannot afford to hire lawyers and architects to help to battle these people and protect their property from them. We hear a lot about their property rights, but what about my parents' property rights?

Please vote in favor of this application for a change in zoning to R-4 for Lanier Heights so that there will at least be some limits on what can be taken away from my parents. R-4 is right for Lanier Heights.

Thank you.