

Leach, Deonte (DCOZ)

From: paul.zuckerberg <paul.zuckerberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:09 AM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Ron Baker
Subject: Public Comment - Lanier Heights downzoning (Case 15-09)

Dear Commissioners,

As a 15 year property owner on Lanier Place, NW, I have previously expressed my opposition to the downzoning in my written testimony. Our vibrant, wonderful neighborhood has thrived because it adapted to change, not because it ossified.

My home, build in 1907, has 4 coal burning fireplaces, 8 bedrooms, over 4000 square feet of living space, and originally came with servant's quarters. Times have changed. It's self-service now at my house.

During the First World War, many of these huge homes became boarding houses, and later in the 1960's, group homes. These 4 story monsters (including the basement) have always been too big for typical family. When these buildings have reached their normal useful life, some have been converted into small, more reasonable spaces.

Indeed, many of the folks who want to preserve these huge homes for children live in apartment building like the historic Ontario, which are now reasonably sized units. The original family sized Ontario apartments were divided up into smaller units long ago.

Nor is it reasonable think that the existing single family homes will be sold top young families with school aged kids. At 1.5 million, with lots of upkeep and maintenance, the remaining houses could only be purchased by 1%'er's, international types, or trophy-home hunters. It's housing preservation for billionaires. Do you really want Donald Trump (types) as your neighbors blocking your alleyway with their yachts?

There is a thoughtful, compromise proposal developed by Ron Baker, a neighbor, which, in this world of stark extremes, seems to make good sense, and I urge the Commission to consider it, as well as excluding the 1700 Block of Lanier Place from your plan.

Best,

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. ~~ZONING COMMISSION~~ 15-09
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. ~~CASE NO. 15-09~~ 151
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