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Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2016 7:29 PM
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Subject: Postpone Bruce Monroe Park Decision

I'm an architect living 1 block from Bruce Monroe Park. In general I am in favor of urbanism and increasing density as a way to both create community and reduce the infrastructure impact per person. However, I cannot support the development of Bruce Monroe Park (3012 Georgia Avenue NW Rd, SQUARE: 2890, LOT: 0849) in the manor currently proposed. Please reject the proposal and solicit full community input on the matter before taking any action. If the Council is determined to move forward, please convert the Mayor's resolutions to a bill so the Council can weigh in on specific aspects of the development.

The park is currently well loved and used by all members of our community. I walk my dog in the park and see kids playing basketball on the courts and doubles playing tennis. This Park provides an enormous amenity for the people of this neighborhood. To tear it down and add up to 700 new residents to the community with no thought of how to replace what you are taking away is unforgivable.

Even without considering the community assets that you would be removing, it doesn't seem that the developer has fully considered the ramifications of nearly 300 additional units to the area. Parking in this area is already stressed by the conversion of historic row houses to multi-unit apartments. Unless the proposed residential building is planning to park at a full 1 space per bedroom ratio, I think it will completely over saturate street parking in the area. Especially if dedicated bus lanes on Irving and Columbia are put in and eliminate parking on both streets.

I also have concerns about dramatically affecting the character and demographic of the area. Currently many of the households have lived here for a long time. These are citizens who care about their community and dedicated to its long-term development and success. When you invite hundreds of new tenants to the area at once, you invite people with little concern for their neighbors or their neighborhood. They come in for one or two years and live in an almost "slash and burn" lifestyle, consuming resources and shredding the world around them all to their benefit with little or no concern for those around them because they have no long term interest. Additionally, the development has no reference for the surrounding character. This neighborhood is based upon the DC row house. The glass curtain wall design is fine on its own, but the architect's marketing rendering clearly shows how inappropriate the design is for this area. The scale is completely out of proportion, and the materials are unfounded.

I hope that you will recognize that the "public process" that the developer underwent for this design approval has not taken into account the community's true desires. With that in mind, I ask you to reject the proposal as it stands now and rethink the community involvement in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter facing our community.
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