

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: TheRockStarOfMotivation Leroy <leroyam09@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:41 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Bruce Monroe community park

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DC Zoning Commission:

My name is Leroy Sam.

I went to the original Bruce-Monroe school and organize a yearly community event for area children and families at the Bruce Monroe Community Park.

I oppose replacing this park with a 9-story-plus-penthouse tower (Case 16-11) and want to tell you why.

The city's new Comprehensive Plan requires a thorough impact assessment -- ensuring that negative impacts on neighborhoods are adequately mitigated.

This park is part of the community. People gather here who have been gathering here for years. New families enjoy the space and quickly become part of the community as kids swing together, teenagers play basketball together, and all of us do community events together.

I personally know many kids who might get in trouble if they weren't able to release some energy on the basketball courts. They are good kids who just want to hang out with other kids as they get older, and do so in their own neighborhood. They are not going to

hike half-a-mile or a mile away -- this is their park, this is their neighborhood, this is their community.

The park is where I give back to the community by organizing a large permitted event each year. We do it right before school starts and have given out hundreds of bookbags to kids in the area so they are prepared for success in DC schools. To make it attractive for families to come, we put up big inflatable castles and bounce areas. We cook out. We play games.

Many people who grew up in the area and have known each other for years bring their kids -- some people still live a block away, others come back from a couple miles away. We all come back because the park is where we grew up, it's a centerpiece of our community for decades, and we want to bring our kids here.

This would not be possible in the small amount of "green area" that would be left over after the 9-story-plus-penthouse tower is built. Even if it were, it would be cramped and not in line with the character of the current park or where we grew up. It would represent a new high watermark of gentrification -- not a place we would want to bring our kids.

I support affordable housing and I support smart development that builds community and lifts people up. This tower would tear community down. It's inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the new Comprehensive Plan. Please find an alternative. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Leroy Sam
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