

Schellin, Sharon (DCOZ)

From: Beth Callanan <tcallanet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:48 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: RE Case number 19-10 Valor Development, LLC Consolidated PUD Square 1499, Lots 802, 803, 806, and 807 Letter in Opposition

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When our daughter and son-in-law were relocating from Brooklyn to Washington, DC, to raise their boys, ages 4 and 7, closer to grandparents in a more family-friendly neighborhood, we persuaded them to consider AU Park. Unlike when we moved here in 1975, the neighborhood has gone through a profound transition and now abounds with young families and many, many children drawn to its suburban feel within the city's confines and Janney, which has become a stellar elementary school in no small part due to intense involvement by the parents of all the young children who now live here. Our grandsons now live just a block from the proposed Ladybird development.

Unfortunately, projects like Ladybird are wrecking that family-friendly ambiance and will inevitably do the same to our already over-crowded Janney school. Moverover, the streets are increasingly more dangerous, not just for my young grandsons and their friends, but for 70+ year-olds, like my husband, who insists on putting his life on the line every day to walk his 3 miles a day. Trucks, buses, distracted drivers, speeding teenagers and time-crushed commuters are racing through our neighborhood already.

At the risk of being accused of being "anti-development," which I confess I think I am, I have to ask "Why is this happening?" For whose benefit are these massive multi-story developments being erected on virtually every perimeter of our once quiet neighborhood when the infrastructure (roads, transportation, schools, etc.) clearly can't support them? Property values have been increasing apace for the very reason that the neighborhood, until now, has been so idyllic for families contributing increasing tax revenues to the DC Government. Why are residents being sacrificed for the interests of developers? You are killing your golden goose by wrecking the very ambiance and services it has, until now, been able to provide.

I hope you will reconsider the size and scope of this project as well as the others that are going to put a strain on our once beautiful community and turn it into the very densely overpopulated Brooklyn-like cityscape our children were hoping to escape from...and I hope before any others are even considered, the DC Government will develop a plan that synthesizes growth with services and infrastructure, most especially school capacity and quality.

Sincerely,
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