

September 24, 2019

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW – Suite 210 S
Washington DC 20001

RE: Case number 19-10 Valor Development, LLC Consolidated PUD Square 1499, Lots 802, 803, 806, and 807 Letter in Opposition

Chairman Hood and Commissioners:

We have written five or more letters in opposition to this development. Valor continues to use the tactic of making cosmetic changes and trying again – this time a PUD, and again, we feel compelled to write to voice our concern. We have lived in Spring Valley for over 25 years and considered ourselves fortunate to live here. In the past three years we have observed a marked decline in our quality of life. The key contributing factors to that decline are an astonishing increase in:

- Traffic flow through Spring Valley and on Massachusetts Avenue;
- Car thefts and break-ins: We witnessed a car break in directly in front of our house at 2pm. We have seen the telltale signs of increased break-ins throughout Spring Valley and AU Park. We enjoy walking and have come across countless backpacks and bags that have been rifled through and tossed, clearly from a car break-in because of the auto glass in the bags. We found one bag in our alley just behind our house, very disconcerting. Recently, just a week ago, we had to contact police to get belongings returned to the rightful owner.
- Litter of all types: Starbucks, fast food establishments, bottles, cans, wrappers, etc.
- Dog waste bags tossed everywhere, on the street, in yards, even flung into bushes where they dangle from the branches;
- Rideshare vehicles (cars, bikes, scooters) left everywhere including the middle of sidewalks, lying in the street or cross walks with total disregard and disrespect for the community and shared space in general.

These are just a few examples of the lack of consideration to maintain what was always a beautiful, cared for community. All these negative changes started occurring after business development that promotes the presence of strangers in the neighborhood. A significant increase in population that will occur as a result of this oversized complex proposed by Valor will only aggravate the situation further.

The Valor proposed development is simply too big, too tall, too dense for the community and the space where it is planned. The structures would loom over the tree line and Spring Valley Shopping Center as well as nearby homes. We are not as unfortunate as the 200 footers nonetheless, the proposed development would have a seriously negative impact on all of us who have appreciated the quiet of Spring Valley, AU Park, and other neighborhoods in the vicinity. We are in our sixties and seventies and long, safe walks around the neighborhood are key to maintaining our mental and physical health. We consider our home a sanctuary and Spring Valley and the surrounding neighborhoods gems within the city, much like Rock Creek Park and its surrounding communities.

It seems most developers want to see every quadrant of the District developed vertically and with greater density. It is misguided and would be a critical error to paint all of the city with the same broad brush. It is imperative that city plans respect and accommodate different life styles. Also, significantly increasing the population of this area would be an extreme drain on the schools, roads, and infrastructure underground and above.

Being the capital of the country, this beautiful nationally and internationally significant city offers many different neighborhoods for us to enjoy. If we wanted to live in a more happening part of town we would be there. For example, our newest neighbors just moved from Shaw to Spring Valley to raise their young children.

Please recognize and respect the beauty, character, and space of this area and preserve it in the manner it was meant to be preserved. Because allowing any development that does not respect the integrity and scale of the surroundings would be a tragic irreversible mistake and lead to an extreme decline in quality of life for residents who care deeply about preserving quality of life.

Respectfully and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah G Barry and Carlos DC Ferreira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

4910 Sedgwick St, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Cc: Councilmember Mary Cheh