

Dear DC Zoning Commission Members,

I stand in my kitchen and see blue sky.

We are condo owners in the Velocity building at 1025 First Street SE. We moved to the city from Virginia to build a life and a family. It was hard for us to make the decision to move to DC, as we considered the loss of what Statehood means—having a member of Congress to appeal to if needed. After researching DC more, we saw that there were city managers that could serve that function, so here we are, appealing to the Commission Members.

We bought our condo in Navy Yard, before the restaurants and whole foods, and other amenities existed. We invested in the community on the promise of what the city was trying to build. We wanted to be a part of that future.

Adding a story, or three, to the building at 80 M SE does not simply mean that there will be additional shadows on our building, a natural part of city life, it means we will no longer see the sky from our condo.

In trying to put ourselves in the Commission's place, we appreciate that weighing individual residents against corporations is a challenge. However, we note so many buildings with several empty floors throughout the neighborhood, sitting available and for sale or lease. Why not fill those first? Wouldn't that enhance the market rate for the neighborhood? Or if this developer can fill three floors, and there isn't a concern from the Commission regarding bringing in more business, why not encourage the developer to build on one of the empty lots in Navy Yard? Why not invest the construction in developing the sore thumb empty lots that sorely need it?

We invested in DC, and the Navy Yard, because we share the vision of a vibrant mixed-use community. We not only live here, but work here, and actively work to support the businesses here.

We would ask that the Commission consider the impact to the residents, like us, who invested early in the potential of Navy Yard.

We implore the members of the DC Zoning Commission to deny the request to add to the existing building at 80 M SE.

We fell in love with our condo, because we could still see the sky, even with the city all around us, and are heartbroken at the thought of no longer seeing blue sky from our condo.

Respectfully,

Bob Jacobs and Meredith McKay

Residents of 1025 First Street SE