

Case No. 19-23

January 20, 2020

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Written Statement to Commission's Request of Meeting Summary with 80 M Street SE

District of Columbia Zoning Commissioners:

This letter is response to the Zoning Commission's request on January 9, 2020 to provide a high-level summary of the meeting with 80 M Street SE (Applicant), which was to occur prior to January 16, 2020.

On January 15, 2020, approximately 40 Velocity residents and the Applicant met at the Velocity building (adjacent to 80 M Street SE). The residents were extremely grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Applicant, as no one was aware of the prior meeting. This meeting allowed the residents to express concerns, however, it also resulted in additional questions based off the responses provided by the Applicant.

During the meeting, the Applicant stated that the project was expected to last for 20 months (almost two years, or 730 days). Many residents remain perplexed and very concerned at the timeframe. It seems unbelievable that this type of construction would take almost 2 years to complete. Furthermore, when asked about the hours and days of construction, the Applicant advised that they would be working seven days a week from 7am-7pm. Now raising concerns over the quality of life for Velocity residents, who reside less than 100 feet from the building. So we must endure the construction Monday – Friday for 12 hours a day and early in the morning on Saturdays and Sundays? Is there no mercy, especially for the residents who live on that side of the building? The Applicant and developers leave at the end of the day- we do not, we reside here, in our **HOMES**, 24 hours/day, 7 days a week! The residents also expressed concerns over privacy and lighting in regard to the project proposed by the Applicant. Residents inquired if the Applicant had taken into consideration the lighting that would be used in the building, the Applicant stated no. This is a serious concern with residents as several floors of lights are currently left on, all night. If this continues after the addition of the two floors, it will be excessive due to the open design of the proposed building plan.

There were other concerns that were unable to be answered: 1. Would the Applicant need to put a crane over our building? 2. Would there be any impacts on entering or exiting our parking garage (which almost every resident uses daily)? The Applicant was unable to answer because they were unsure how they would be accessing the building for construction purposes (Cushing Street or L Street). 3. Would the building use lighting that is non-intrusive to the residents who live less than 100 feet from the building? Residents asked that the current tenants please turn off their lights and/or pull their shades, of which the Applicant agreed to implement immediately. Yet, floors of lights have still been left on around the clock, since the meeting, leaving many of the residents to feel that no matter what the Applicant states they will do, it will result in broken promises, as already demonstrated.