

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Laura Heller <lauramheller@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:57 AM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Written Testimony Case 20-14

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Dear Commission,

My name is Laura Heller and I have been a resident of Ward 6 and Southwest for the last 3 years. My address is 905 6th St SW Apt 510 Washington DC 20024. This is my 4th year as a school social worker with the District, a role which has led me to support numerous families struggling to afford safe places to live in our city. The number of families being priced out of safe, affordable places to raise their children is ever increasing and the influx of luxury developments in this city only serves to exacerbate this problem.

With this in mind, I would like the commission to reject the proposed development, VNO South Capitol, LLC & Three Lots in Square 649, LLC unless the project design aligns with the goals of equity and inclusion delineated in the SW neighborhood plan by including 1/3 market rate housing, 1/3 workforce affordable housing, and 1/3 deeply affordable housing units.

This development prides itself in offering an abysmal number of affordable housing units--just 1.4% of all units included in the development. Such an offering is an insult to our neighborhood, which according to the D.C. Government's Southwest Neighborhood Plan, should "remain an exemplary model of equity and inclusion - a welcoming and engaged community that celebrates and retains a mix of races, ages and income levels and enhances well-being for all amidst neighborhood growth and change." Each luxury building built in Southwest moves us further from this plan and worsens the gentrification that has led to a decrease in the Black population of this neighborhood from 67% of residents to 40% in the last 20 years. New developments in our neighborhood should only be approved if they commit to providing workforce and deeply affordable housing that will maintain the income and racial diversity that has been present throughout Southwest's history.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Heller