

To the DC Zoning Commission and staff,

I ask my comments be included on the public record in ZC Case No. 23-02.

I support the proposed upzoning of 1617 U Street. I live slightly north, in a rental unit that sits in SMD 1C06, which I share with a roommate. I love my area, including the blocks near the proposed upzoning, and often spend time looking through Zillow listings of homes nearby.

Unfortunately, I couldn't possibly afford to live in any of these homes. Like many young people in booming American metro areas, a shortage of housing supply has made finding affordable rental options in neighborhoods like Adams Morgan extremely challenging, let alone actually owning a home. I am privileged to even rent in the neighborhood, but those who suffer the most from this shortage have been priced out of the DC metro entirely, including many longtime residents with deep roots in this city.

The solution to the housing shortage is simple — build more housing. I support the 1617 U Street development because it would do exactly this, and bring DC one step closer to a more affordable, sustainable, and inclusive housing reality.

Best,

Rakan Aboneaaj

Submitted on 11/15/2023 by:

Rakan Aboneaaj

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