

Why I oppose the up zoning of 1617 U FROM MU-4 (low-rise) to MU-10 11 stories

Madame/Sir,

While I understand the wish to modernize the block, I am very worried about the new building will completely destroy the residential and historic nature of the area. This will surely impact the quality of life, environment, community in the area.

While it makes sense to build up to say 4-5 stories on U Street it will be catastrophic if 11 stories plus the penthouse is put up. It's double the size of the other buildings on that part of U Street and indeed bigger than any building you can see from there.

It would be even more catastrophic if something of that height goes up on the northern part of the block which is surrounded by low - very low in some cases - modest row houses. It would take away light, air, public space, privacy, increase traffic to an unheard of level in a residential area and place a tremendous burden on the area during construction. I'm not at all sure that the houses from the 1800s would be able to withstand the shaking that would be the result of the construction of such magnitude.

I therefore ask that the Council sticks to the low rise vision for this area in accordance with the wishes of the community. There must be room for all of us even within an updated block.

Best wishes

Ian Hawkesworth

Submitted on 2/23/2023 by:

Ian Hawkesworth

2036 17th Street NW 20009 Washington DC