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To: [DCOZ - ZC Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Cc: [Schellin, Sharon \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to 1617 U Street Rezoning: DC Zoning Case Number 23-02
Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023 10:05:27 AM

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To the DC Zoning Commission and staff,

I ask my comments be included on the public record in ZC Case No. 23-02. And, I ask that the Secretary sign me up to testify on Monday June 26th in opposition to the rezoning application in this case.

I live at the intersection of 17th and T streets, two blocks from the 3rd Precinct and Engine #9. The presence of these public services nearby has been a source of comfort for my family and neighbors since we moved here over 5 years ago.

Third precinct officers have answered my calls (along with the Department of Behavioral Health) when a tenant in my building needs help during psychotic episodes. They have stepped up enforcement of traffic violations in the area, which is a blessing after my wife and I have almost been hit on many occasions in pedestrian crosswalks. Last year the fire/EMS staff saved our handicapped neighbor who was having a heart attack. I am grateful for their services, and believe moving their operations without a replacement headquarters nearby would be harmful to our neighborhood.

Despite their proximity, we are seeing an increasing prevalence of criminal activity in our neighborhood over the past two to three years. Broken glass strewn over the sidewalks from car break-ins, drug use and overdose, armed robbery, and egregious traffic violations are an almost daily occurrences. I do not exaggerate. This is not surprising given the city council's embrace of the defund the police movement and drafting of Criminal Code Act of 2022. To further reduce the operationality of the police and fire/ems services in this environment is not ignorance, but malice.

I have no objection to large multi-family developments in our neighborhood, especially those that include affordable units. However, using public land and displacing integral public services at a time when crime and health issues are at high's not seen in decades, it is obviously not advisable. I urge the DC zoning commission and city council to find an alternative plan to increase the number of housing units that does not displace necessary public services.

I strongly oppose this rezoning application for the foregoing reasons and ask you do the same.

Regards,
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