

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 9:35 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Schellin, Sharon (DCOZ); ccdcvoice@gmail.com
Subject: Zoning Case 23-25, Chevy Chase residents deserve rights to a contested case

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to let you know that Zoning case 23-25 was set down improperly; Chevy Chase residents deserve their rights to a contested case. As a 55-year resident of Chevy Chase, we need a contested case. For the following reasons, I join other residents who ask that you afford residents their right to be heard.

1- I am opposed to giving private developers building rights on public lands, still used for public use.

2- I am opposed to an RFP process that was flawed, proposing an outsized 80 foot building height and 60% lot coverage; ignoring and thus eliminating the ball court, children’s play area, reading area outside the library and community center and all possible on-site parking.

These are important community resources that will be lost in the process, and their unique role in drawing together diverse users in age, gender and race in a unique way. At a time when we need to encourage reading in our youth these amenities soften what can become a sterile library experience for young readers. At a time of an aging population demographic we need to preserve and offer additional opportunities for social engagement and fitness.

3- I fear for our small businesses given that the RFP includes the potential commercial use of the space. I have no problem with mixed use development to increase the vitality of Chevy Chase DC, but the zoning proposed is completely out of sync with existing land uses and the neighborhood and will NOT result in more affordable housing. The block across from the Wells Fargo Bank next to the bus terminal has not been successful for the small businesses attempting to locate there and would be ideal for low rise mixed use as would the Safeway property. We do not need to give away public land that can never be reclaimed.

By passing the proposed rezoning you are providing a gift of public land - the Chevy Chase Commons Park, Library and Community Center - to developers for their personal profit. This rezoning does nothing to lower housing costs in DC. You will, by up-zoning Chevy Chase, lose 1000s of Naturally Occurring Affordable Homes in rent-controlled buildings. Our Chevy Chase workforce - teachers, police, retail workers, etc. - will be displaced by your actions, as workforce housing has been lost in every other densified and gentrified DC neighborhood. You will displace the Chevy Chase small businesses just as small business have been lost in every other densified and gentrified DC neighborhood. You will harm the residents of the Chevy Chase community with incalculable loss, if you vote for up-zoning Chevy Chase.

History has shown that once this public land has been turned over to private developers they will be charging high rents and then turn around and sell the development at a substantial profit.

Chevy Chase residents deserve their rights to a contested case. Please do the right thing to support us residents.

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