

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Schellin, Sharon (DCOZ)
Subject: Fw: Public Comments for Zoning

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Hello Commissioners:

Zoning case 23-25 was set down improperly; Chevy Chase residents, myself included, deserve our rights to a contested case, so that we can present evidence and cross-examine witnesses, and so that we will have the right to appeal the zoning decision.

I have been a Chevy Chase resident since 1979 and very often spend much of my free time in the area in question. I enjoy the distinct neighborhood like feel along upper Connecticut Ave. It is a separate and distinct section of DC. Perhaps Chevy Chase doesn't have the stand out appeal of Georgetown or Adams Morgan but it is nevertheless part of the fabric of a multidimensional multifaceted city. I do not think the harmony of these areas would be sacrificed in order to provide several low cost dwellings in a condominium with 70 - 80% million dollar apartments. Attending the last town hall meeting I learned that the goal in question is to provide housing for moderate income residents and increase the economic diversity of the area west of Rock Creek Park. Assuming that the proposed building will be 60 foot tall, (which would seriously affect the feng shui of the community) this would likely allow for at most 50 new apartments. If 20% of this building should be for low income housing we are talking about 10 apartments. It doesn't seem like this is going to in any way make a dent in the affordability problem facing the city, nor significantly move the needle in regards to economically diversifying Chevy Chase.

We would primarily be adding another 40 luxury apartments, at the expense of taking away our community space, our library and adding another 50+ more cars to be parked on our already saturated streets. **In addition, DC would be GIVING AWAY a very valuable piece**

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.23-25
EXHIBIT NO.431

of land. It seems that this would be a developers' delight and an economic loss for our financially distressed city.

It should also be kept in mind that we would be placing people relying on public transportation far away from the DC Metro System and in a neighborhood with pricing they will be ill able to afford. Not to mention that this project would not be ready for at least another five-ten years.

We need to look outside of the box if the goal is to house a large number of moderate income residents and to change the economic diversity of our community. The city is already placing severely economically disadvantaged residents in existing rental apartments along Connecticut Ave., all of which have vacancies, and there should be a similar voucher program for moderate income residents to live there.

In conclusion, adding 10 low cost apartments to upper Chevy Chase will not change the economic diversity of the community in any meaningful way. It will only accomplish taking away our community space, additionally choke our streets, and add more wealthy residents to our area, give away a valuable piece of property and make an eventual developer.

A very loyal political constituent to our fine city,

Stuart Meyers
3122 Birch St. NW