

Good Afternoon, my name is Anna Hamilton. I am a native DC resident, born and raised in Northeast DC, but I have lived in Southeast DC for ten years, and across the street from Martins View for the past five years. I have witnessed the neglect Ward 8 has been subjected to. We pay taxes too but receive less attention and care from our elected leaders. The proposed redevelopment will be detrimental to my community.

I want to make it clear that I fully support the residents getting new buildings. However, the size is problematic. The justification given, "to recoup relocation costs," is not sufficient. This project seems to benefit developers financially rather than serve the community.

Key concerns include:

1. Out of 821 units, only 150 are designated as "affordable." Does this include current residents who pay below market rate? There are residents that pay \$500 a month with utilities included, and they are not represented in the numbers. Also, inclusionary zoning is based on a lottery and can take up to a year to get selected. There are so many unanswered questions about affordability.
2. Parking is already a contentious issue. Increased units will worsen tensions. Enforcement of proposed residential parking permits, especially on weekends, is questionable. I, like many neighbors, have no access to off-street parking. Additionally, parking will not be free for residents at the new building, costing \$200 and up based on their existing properties. This will negatively affect all of us, especially during holidays and events.
3. The new development will block natural light coming into our homes, replacing our skyline with artificial lighting and a wall. Noise pollution will increase in our quiet neighborhood, along with general pollution from the increased traffic.
4. This project will displace current apartment residents and affect homeowners in the surrounding area for years to come. Property taxes will increase, and some will not be able to make ends meet, thus pushing them out as well.
5. This project ignores decades of racist policies in the city that push out Black and Brown district residents. If this project were truly seeking to serve Ward 8, at least 50% of the apartments would be designated as IZ and realistically affordable for Ward 8 residents. Minimum income for IZ is \$30k a year; if you are disabled or a senior on social security, you would not qualify.
6. We have green space here in Bellevue, which is vital to our well-being. The destruction of this will cause significant harm to the community and environment. And set off a trend of high rises and tight spaces which is unhealthy.

7. Our community's infrastructure cannot support the influx of traffic and people that this project will bring.

Since November, we have voiced these concerns at our ANC meetings without resolution or proper attention. We were told month after month that they needed more information. Two weeks before our June ANC meeting, a letter of support was given to the developers without public input or transparency. This leaves us feeling ignored and questioning the integrity of the process.

I urge this commission, our ANC, and Council Member Trayon to consider: Do we matter? Do our Black lives matter to you all? This is a majority Black neighborhood. I encourage everyone involved to visit our neighborhood and see the potential impact firsthand.

We have a petition with 34 signatures and growing. Please listen to our community. Humans and community over greed.

Thank you for your time.

Additional comments:

One of the lawyers for the applicant team referenced Good Hope Market closing due to residents being unable to afford it. First, it is insulting to call us all poor. Second, the place was badly managed, had poor selection, was overpriced, and the food was subpar. This is already a mixed-income community.

The "community outreach" events have been tone-deaf. In fact, during the one in February, one of the guys from the applicant team started to laugh when a resident was voicing her concerns.

We are also in a flight zone; planes fly low over here.

There are some deaf residents at Martin's View, and I don't recall captioning being used during the Zoom meetings nor an interpreter being present.