
Opposition for Zoning Commission Case 24-11

From Robert Meier <rmeier55@gmail.com>

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Saturday, June 25, 2025

Letter in Opposition to ZC 24-11, Jemal's Schaeffer LLC & Jemal's Bumper George LLC

Case Summary: Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment from MU-5B to PDR-1, New York & Montana Aves. NE (Sq. 4268, Lots 6, 12, 14, 801, 804 & 819; and Parcels 153/113, 153/152 & 153/153) - Ward 5

Dear D.C. Zoning Chairperson Anthony Hood and members of the Zoning Commission:

I am submitting a letter of opposition regarding the Zoning Commission Case 24-11, which would allow rezoning within the Montana Triangle for MU-5B to PDR-1 Ward 5 and specifically the Arboretum community.

The Arboretum neighborhood is a special, tight-knit community of people with diverse backgrounds. Some of my neighbors have told me how their parents bought their home here because DC was one of the first areas in the country to ban redlining in 1964. This local fair housing act was used as a model for the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. These pioneers of the civil rights movement still live in the neighborhood and are deeply impacted by this rezoning. They have pride in their city and seek projects that offer charming, walkable spaces with amenities that build community and help beautify the "Gateway to DC."

When people enter our city for the first time, it is often on New York Avenue over the beautiful Anacostia River. What are they greeted by after that? Fast food, gas stations, and hotels. Aesthetics mean everything to DC. Adding an industrial zone will just add another eyesore to an area that is desperate for revitalization. We are privileged to have the incredible National Arboretum in our neighborhood, and supplementing it with an industrial zone seems counterintuitive to the potential

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 24-11
EXHIBIT NO. 28

attractiveness of the area.

I understand the need for industrial areas in the city, however, DC is the nation's capital, and we need projects that make our city shine and flourish. It's embarrassing when we are passed over for the World Cup and countless other major events because other cities are more preferable than "the swamp." How is adding an industrial zone to a parcel of land at one of our main arteries going to change the perception of our city? This area of DC has major potential for growth and beautification, and rezoning it as industrial will hamper those efforts.

I implore you to keep the current "mixed use" designation for the land and find ways for the developer to create spaces that were envisioned like the "New DC" plan. Currently, the space is a bus lot that adds pollution and trash to our lovely neighborhood. We need projects that enhance our area, not hinder it.

Thank you for considering and allowing our concerns to be heard on this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Meier
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Washington, DC 20002

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