

Dear DCOZ & BZA, Please accept my comments in opposition to the development plans by The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society (Case No. 19377). As a Lee Montessori parent and DC taxpayer, I am appalled and outraged that you are even entertaining the developer's request to thwart the efforts of parents, students, and staff to seek, receive, and provide quality education in a decent environment. It saddens me that time and time again DC claims that it wants quality education and schools, but doesn't follow through with those claims in its actions. A rare gem in DC, Lee Montessori provides students with a quality education in a clean, welcoming, and peaceful environment and is currently able to incorporate the green space adjacent to the school in many of its educational and Lee community events. The single complaint I have about the school is access. It is asinine in my opinion that parents, students, and staff from two schools are restricted to accessing the school by less than two-lane road off of 4th Street. This access point is literally an accident waiting to happen. I am at a loss as to why DC would allow the developer to ruin the environment of one of its better schools Lee's and make it even more difficult for students, staff, and parents to (literally) gain access to education. What terrible lessons the Lee Montessori AND Washington Leadership Academy students will learn if DC allows this developer to move forward with its severely restrictive development plans. DC, you are essentially telling the students the following:- developers with big pockets are far more important than your education;- development trumps conservation;- your education is so insignificant that you barely get a tiny "road" to access your school;- although some of you walk and use public transportation, you are so offensive that you may not walk on some people's sidewalks.- simply walking on sidewalks in certain areas around your school subjects you to police surveillance (already occurring in the Chancellor's Row community behind/beside Lee likely because of their skin color) and potentially overzealous homeowners like George Zimmerman so be careful that you don't end up like Trayvon Martin;- there is no room for you other than your classroom and nothing you need to learn about outside of those four walls;- DC does not care that your chronic asthma and allergies will be exacerbated by construction dust rather than eased by fresh air;- mom and dad won't be able to participate in my education and special events because of the limited access and parking; - those awesome teachers/staff (some of whom are college students) don't want to work here anymore because it's such a hassle to get here. The list of takeaways goes on and on and I hope DC considers at least some of these and other negative implications this project has on everyone except the money hungry developer. Despite its aspirations to gentrify, increase tax revenue, etc., a city with such diversity should consider all of its constituents, including its youngest. This is a sensitive time for student relations, race relations, etc. Please show some compassion to the students that actually show up to learn and the staff and parents that want to support them by limiting this developer's plans to eliminate the green space and restrict school ingress and egress. Thank you in advance for your consideration and decisions in support of education. I hope that already seeing surveyors working at the SCHOOL SITE does not mean that the developer has swayed you in advance of the hearing to make decisions detrimental to Lee Montessori and Washington Leadership Academy students, teachers, and families. Sincerely, Jennifer Jones Concerned Parent lady-love@live.com

Submitted on 4/24/2018 by:

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 19377
EXHIBIT NO. 106

Jennifer Jones

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