

July 25, 2020

Mr. Frederick Hill
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
Washington, DC

RE: Objection to Application for parking special exception for Macklin project of 3400 Connecticut Avenue Partners LLC; BZA Application No. 20266

Dear Chairman Hill:

I am writing, as a Cleveland Park community member, to object to BZA award of a special exception to the parking requirements for the proposed Macklin project of 3400 Connecticut Avenue Partners LLC. I live on Ordway Street just off Connecticut Avenue, and received written notice of this proceeding from the BZA due to the very close proximity of this project to my home.

I have lived here since 1989 and have found on-street parking near my house to always be very difficult. I often have to drive up and down Ordway and nearby streets to look for an available parking spot, sometimes having to park blocks away up a steep hill from my home. While in the past I have used the Metro for numerous purposes, I also drive to reach a full supermarket, to visit friends, to shop elsewhere around Washington, to access exercise facilities and, for many years, to attend countless public school activities throughout DC for my four children. Due to Covid, the importance of driving is now greater than ever to assure our health and safety. Parking thus is very important in the neighborhood and we need every space to be maintained as required by law and regulation.

I also want to mention that I have heard from numerous businesses in our Connecticut Avenue retail corridor that parking is a key limitation on their ability to attract and retain customers from both the neighborhood and elsewhere around the city. While I am happy to be able to walk to these stores, many people obviously are not close enough to comfortably do so and must drive. I know this, as I drive to go to the Giant supermarket and other businesses on Wisconsin Avenue, which is our parallel retail corridor on the other side of Cleveland Park. Allowing a major new development at Connecticut Avenue and Newark Street to avoid its parking obligations would exacerbate the parking difficulties faced by all our local businesses to benefit one development project.

The parking requirements for the Macklin project are there for a good reason. They protect both the daily livability of our neighborhood for residents and the ability of all our Cleveland Park businesses to serve and attract customers. We need all of our parking spaces. I respectfully ask that the BZA not abandon the Macklin parking requirements for the benefit of one developer.

Jeff Berman
2812 Ordway Street, NW

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20266
EXHIBIT NO.118