

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Reid, Robert (DCOZ)
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:03 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: FW: Community Support to block any developments on 1st and Kennedy that do not include commercial space - BZA Application No. 21103 of Developer REI. LLC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Robert I. Reid
Zoning Specialist
Office of Zoning | District of Columbia Government
441 4th Street, NW | Suite 200-S | Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-5471 (office) | www.dcoz.dc.gov | robert.reid@dc.gov

From: Brad Garness <brad.garness@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:50 PM
To: 'Lewis-George, Janeese (Council)' <jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov>
Cc: 'Hunt, Kelly (Council)' <khunt@dccouncil.gov>; 'Royster, Charnisa (Council)' <CRoyster@dccouncil.gov>; Reid, Robert (DCOZ) <robert.reid@dc.gov>; Johnson, Tiffani (SMD 4B06) <4B06@anc.dc.gov>; jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov; 'Bradley Garness' <brad.garness@gmail.com>; Moy, Clifford (DCOZ) <clifford.moy@dc.gov>; Mehlert, Keara (DCOZ) <Keara.Mehlert@dc.gov>; Brooks, Alison (SMD 4B08) <4B08@anc.dc.gov>
Subject: RE: Community Support to block any developments on 1st and Kennedy that do not include commercial space

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Greetings Councilwoman & Team,

If possible, I would like to get a meeting scheduled quickly. We had a bit of miscommunication (I misunderstood) and now realize that the permit hearing is next month.

I have now spoken to over 30 households on 1st & Longfellow, and have not heard one person in support of the proposed development. People want shopping on Kennedy Street.

I am not sure what is preferable for your office, regarding a small or medium size turnout, but it seems clear that people would like to attend and speak to the councilwoman.

As we are grass roots and loosely (perhaps poorly) organized, our communication infrastructure is minimal. We need to know a time that works so we give people an opportunity to come together!

Respectfully,

Brad Garness

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.21103
EXHIBIT NO.18

From: Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) [<mailto:jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:23 PM
To: Brad Garness
Cc: Hunt, Kelly (Council); Royster, Charnisa (Council)
Subject: RE: Community Support to block any developments on 1st and Kennedy that do not include commercial space

Good afternoon, Mr. Garness,

Thanks for reaching out to me with your concerns. This may be an instance where the community has gathered more information than I have.

Like you, I believe both housing and businesses are critical to the revitalization of the Kennedy Street neighborhood. Every development that can, should have both. You may know I've also been advocating for a new library development that will include housing to also be constructed on Kennedy Street. Having said that, I always like to see a plan and understand the reasoning behind it before I say I absolutely will or won't support something. I believe we are going to land on the same side of this issue, but I hope you will understand that I can't commit to that until I see the proposal.

I would be happy to meet with your group, but as we expected the Mayor's budget to drop next week, my schedule is getting a little tight. I've added both Kelly Hunt, my Chief of Staff, and Charnisa Royster, my Deputy Chief of Staff and scheduler, to the email so they can assist. Charnisa will check my availability and, if it looks like I can get a meeting in before the 24th I definitely will. If I can't, I would like to suggest you meet with Kelly. She is a former developer and knows my opinions about development on Kennedy Street very well. She will understand your concerns and be able to relay them to me clearly. And, I will try to be at the meeting on the 24th and remain involved throughout the process.

Charnisa will reach out to you in the next few days with a plan.

Again, I really appreciate you sharing your thoughts on this. One of the many things I love about the Kennedy Street neighborhood is the genuine care people have for its inclusive growth. I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

In service,
Janeese

From: Brad Garness <brad.garness@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:24 PM
To: Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) <jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov>
Subject: Community Support to block any developments on 1st and Kennedy that do not include commercial space

Greetings Councilwoman George,

Myself and several neighbors have been informed of the upcoming meeting for planning on the 24th related to the new development on the NW corner of 1st and Kennedy St. NW.

We are deeply concerned. In the span of less than 24 hours, we have organized strong support from diverse many diverse residents of the neighborhood.

Our neighborhood is deeply concerned. Blocking this is supported from by everyone. From the studio apartments, to the townhouses, to the single family homes, we beg that you take every action to block any permitting that will not include businesses.

We are asking to meet with you as soon as possible. Ideally, at the location of the proposed building.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Brad Garness
907-632-4735

March is [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#). Let's create a world where people of all abilities, skills, and talents have the chance to thrive. #AWorldofOpportunities