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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:54 AM
To: Colson, T. Michelle (SMD 4B01); Palmer, Erin (SMD 4B02); Smith, Zurick (SMD 4B03); Yeats, Evan (SMD 4B04); Gilligan, Kevin (SMD 4B05); Johnson, Tiffani (SMD 4B06); Cohen, Michael (SMD 4B07); Brooks, Alison (SMD 4B08); Thompson, Derrick (SMD 4B09); Berry, Jinin (SMD 4B10)
Cc: 'Hunt, Kelly (Council)'; 'Royster, Charnisa (Council)'; pajohns2@gmail.com; Brooks, Alison (SMD 4B08); Johnson, Tiffani (SMD 4B06); 'Madeline Daniels Benderev'; 'Victoria Battista'; EOM (EOM); bellhouseiv@gmail.com; Reid, Robert (DCOZ); Moy, Clifford (DCOZ); Mehlert, Keara (DCOZ); DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Urgent Community Demand: Mixed-Use Space at 1st and Kennedy St. NW - Public Testimony Regarding 21103 RE1-LLC

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Dear Neighborhood Commissioners,

We write to emphasize the unified voice of our community regarding the development at 1st & Kennedy St. NW. Over 100 households have come together, demanding the inclusion of mixed-use ground floor commercial space.

We the people are actively amplifying our opposition to any development lacking ground floor retail. We urge you to heed the community's call for inclusive development that enhances our neighborhood's vitality. We want affordable housing ownership above a ground floor business and won't accept anything less.

While speaking with neighbors and members of our shared community, I have not met a single person who supports destroying our commercial spaces. The corner of 1st & Kennedy has been historically underrepresented and real suffering has occurred as a result of poor community planning.

The impacts of removing the commercial spaces will continue this trend and will result in further suffering. Real families have suffered.

Poor community planning contributes to high crime rates through various factors such as inadequate social infrastructure, limited economic opportunities, substandard housing conditions, unsafe public spaces, transportation barriers, segregation, and ineffective policing.

We understand that the city as a whole is desperate for new affordable housing; however, this does not mean we should apply short sighted solutions that will negatively impact the neighborhood. If you destroy the commercial spaces you are neglecting the burgeoning neighborhood's needs!

We demand urban planning strategies that are focused on community development, equitable access to resources, and effective crime prevention measures. It is clear that support for a project lacking a ground floor ~~retail component should~~ NOT have been given by the ANC. We call upon you to correct the course.

We request the following actions:

- Block any development lacking a retail ground floor component at 1st & Kennedy St. NW.
- Require any new proposal to include bottom floor retail spaces at 1st & Kennedy St. NW.
- Apply pressure to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to support our concerns & objectives.
- Communicate the desires of the community to the Council, Mayor, & other Stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens who love Kennedy Street