

From: [Wendy Rubin](#)
To: [DCOZ - BZA Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: 21103 REI-LLC--Block proposal without commercial component
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:28:04 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing regarding the planned development on 1st and Kennedy Streets NW that won't have any retail components. My husband and I moved into the neighborhood (Madison St. and 1st St. NW) the week the pandemic began in 2020. Those first months at home were very isolating, and when La Coop opened up in July 2020, it was wonderful to have a place so close to us that we could walk to, see people, and support a local business. Losing La Coop to farther away recently was an enormous disappointment, but we had hoped to hear that another business would arrive in its place. Instead, it appears that there will just be more apartments/condos on that block without any retail components.

Having spots like La Coop (and hopefully other places) is really important for a neighborhood that is so residential. There aren't many options for food and retail in the neighborhood, and with so many people working from home more consistently, that's a huge loss. I'm asking you to please block any development application that doesn't include a retail ground floor component. I think those components will make people more likely to want to live in this neighborhood and hopefully bring other businesses over here as well.

Please support our neighborhood in becoming a thriving community with enticements for people to come and stay here.

Thank you.
Wendy Rubin
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