

**Public Testimony**

**Zoning Hearing: CASE NO. 02-38J (WFS2, LLC – Second-Stage Planned Unit  
Development for 1000 4th Street, S.W. (Lot 822, Square 542)).**

**January 31, 2019**

**Sharron Meshack, Parent, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School**

Good evening Commissioners, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide brief remarks and testimony regarding the proposed Waterfront Station II development by PN Hoffman and partners.

My name is Sharron Meshack, I'm a resident of Southwest Ward 6D01 and an Amidon-Bowen parent. My family has lived in our family home since April of 1979. I would like to voice my outrage in PN Hoffman allowing a charter school to expand without consulting our community school prior to signing a lease.

As the parent of a third-grade student at Amidon-Bowen and the lead of the PTA Parent-Teacher Classroom Support, I know that Amidon-Bowen's success relies on families choosing to send their children to our school and parents begin vested in our community. This can't happen with current development plans of AppleTree expanding into the heart of Southwest. This will cripple our hard work to make it the school of choice for all families of Southwest.

Several generations of my family attended Amidon-Bowen: Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. My sister and I went there as children. The natural progression should have been my children attending Amidon-Bowen. However, I was advised not to send my child to our neighborhood school and rather to a charter school across town. The idea was posed that the commute would be worth it in the long term. To my despair, it was not. My child had no sense of community and outings weren't arranged by the school administration. My child wasn't developing the way advertised by educational consultants I engaged with prior to her attending charter school.

My experience at Amidon-Bowen has been a rewarding one. The community, trust, and support I have to ensure my child and family are thriving is a feeling that every Southwest family should be afforded the opportunity to have.

Again, I am very disappointed that PN Hoffman did not consult with our school community and wish they would not disrupt the excellent community and public educational resources we have. It is important that our Southwest Pre-K families come and grow with us. PN Hoffman choosing to place AppleTree in very close proximity to our school is a reason for concern. As a Title 1 school when resources are removed from our population pipelines of failure are created.

Thank you for your time and consideration. To all parties involved Stand Tall in Purpose. And remember Integrity is not, what you do when people are looking. Rather, what you do when you think people aren't looking. Have a wonderful evening.