

Anthony Hood, Chairman  
DC Zoning Commission

May 21, 2014

Subj: Testimony in opposition to proposed McMillan Park PUD (case no. 13-14)

Dear Chairman Hood,

I'm writing today to express my concerns about the planned development of the McMillan Sand Filtration Site (case number 13-14). I am a homeowner and two-year resident of the unit block of Bryant Street, Northwest—one block due south of the site.

First, let me state that I am wholly in favor of developing this site. A vibrant, living McMillan would be an undeniable boon to the neighborhoods of Stronghold, Bloomingdale, and LeDroit Park.

My fear is that the planned development will cripple these neighborhoods with heavy traffic brought to an area already underserved by public transportation; destroy the beautiful views of the Capitol and Washington Monument visible from Michigan Avenue with high-rise buildings not in keeping with the Victorian-era architecture of surrounding communities; and place public lands firmly in the hands of private entities.

I'm a mother with a young child and a hope for more children, and I'm not above wishing for next-door access to a grocery store or doctor's offices. Yet the loss of a twenty-five acre site that could be a unique, world-class attraction and a model of how to repurpose historic structures for modern use seems a high price to pay for these amenities. I've heard it said that McMillan could be our Central Park, but I disagree—the Mall ably fills that role. McMillan could, though, be our Highline Park, a place where a landscape scarred by industrial use is healed and made more beautiful not by eliminating those scars but by incorporating them—even celebrating them for their odd charm and the story they tell.

I hope the Zoning Commission will reject the request for rezoning this site and urge the city government to reopen the bidding process for a competitive bid that will lead to a truly world-class McMillan.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn Bengfort  
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