

May 1, 2014

Dear Zoning Board Members:

My name is Erin Fairbanks and this is my letter of opposition to Vision McMillan Partner's (VMP) request to zone the McMillan Sand Filtration Site for major development.

I live on North Capitol St NW between Adams and W St. NW – just 2 blocks south of southeastern corner of the site. I object to the development plans of VMP for numerous reasons, but for the purposes of the Zoning Board, I will detail only two that will help you decide that zoning this site to aid VMP in furthering its objective of major development is NOT in the best interest of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Besides living close to the site, I am also a mother to three children, eight years old and under. Two of my children are boys – accident prone boys. In a given year, we can average 5 ER visits. My youngest suffers from seasonal Asthma. Beyond the environmental effects of living on a busy road and having those adverse effects increase exponentially with the Traffic Study's estimated 6000+ cars, I am concerned with how a parent (or I) might get a child to the Children's National Medical Center's Emergency Room in a timely fashion.

On any given day, many times a day, I shake my head in frustration as I watch from my living room window, AMBULANCES, that must pull into the OPPOSING lane of traffic (at the W street median cut) – 6 blocks south of Michigan just to escape the bumper to bumper traffic. Cars are unable to move out of the way because there isn't any space to do so. While I live that same distance away, some parents are not as fortunate to have my proximity to emergency services. Think about the poor parents of asthmatic kids who live in NOMA, or just south of Florida Avenue whose parents must either drive them themselves to save themselves ambulance fees, or dodge opposing traffic in an ambulance in a race to save their child's life.

Everyone knows that every second counts with a gunshot wound to the chest. The Washington National Hospital is the best place to go if you get shot. But if you can't get there in time because the ambulance is stuck – in traffic – you may die in transit.

THREE IMPORTANT HOSPITALS are located north of McMillan – let's not forget that. Hospitals are difficult to get to now with First Street closed and North Capitol St. backed up with traffic on a fairly regular basis. When North Capitol is clogged up, drivers are now left with driving through Howard University's campus (not an easy or quick path to take either). This development at McMillan will hamper access to emergency care to all people who live and experience life threatening situations South of McMillan.

No amount of extra traffic lights, extra bus lines, and bicycle shares is going to mitigate the sheer density of traffic that is going to come with this development. With this development will come more competition for parking spaces and vehicular dance that comes with that – the hunting, the stopping, and the unskilled parking. It will come with more delivery trucks that park in odd places and block

entrances, and force drivers to merge. Imagine if one of your family or friends was shot at the intersection of New York and North Capitol and the ambulance carrying them must fight the gridlock northwards toward Washington National during afternoon rush hour. It is bad now, it will only become worse.

My second reason for encouraging you to oppose the VMP's request for zoning McMillan for development is that the VMP plans aim to demolish the majority of McMillan's subterranean caverns. Caverns that, just yesterday, captured over 5ft of water in just cell 14 and possibly, kept Bloomingdale from flooding. With global warming, this trend toward more and more rain will continue. Having these cells available to us for future deluges is necessary to keep Bloomingdale and other neighborhoods south of the site from being destroyed.

I could go on and on about how this Board should dismiss this request solely based on how the opposing majority of the surrounding communities' has been disenfranchised and/or discouraged to participate in community meetings because nothing they say matters to the people in control. These developers didn't want to hear that in our 2012 door-to-door community-wide survey that 80% of neighbors wanted more than 50% park or that those same neighbors wanted to re-purpose the subterranean cells. Hopefully, though, these two important reasons for denying their application – the threat to emergency access to three major hospitals, and environmental impact – are enough.

For the overall health of people and their homes, and their communities', I URGE you to DENY VMP's request for zoning McMillan for development.

Sincerely,

Erin Fairbanks

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