

MR Anthony Hood, Chairman  
DC Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Case #13-14 (Vision McMillan Partners LLC and the District of Columbia – First Stage and Consolidated PUD and Related Map Amendment at 2501 First Street, NW (Square 3128, Lot 800))

My name is Nicole Campbell and I am a resident of the unit block of Franklin Street in Stronghold, less than half a block from the site. I love our neighborhood despite being a relatively small neighborhood, Stronghold has gained a reputation for being a close-knit community where people look out for one another. This is one of the reasons why my husband and I decided to buy our home in Stronghold and start a family. The recent arrival of our baby has exposed a problematic aspect of our wonderful community. It is very difficult to access amenities and kid-oriented play spaces without having to drive. As a new mother working full time, I'm acutely aware of the amount of time it takes to accomplish basic tasks such as shopping for groceries, bringing my child to a playground or simply going out for a cup of coffee. When those amenities necessitate packing up the car and driving to a specific location, or numerous specific locations, their utility is greatly lessened. After a full day of work, and picking up my child, the last thing I want to do is drag him around town to get basic errands done. With walkable amenity spaces at the McMillan sand filtration site, I'd be able to spend quality time on a nice walk with my son, while accessing basic retail for everyday needs. So many citizens in other parts of the city have access to basic options as a hardware store, grocery store or pharmacy without having to drive. None of these are accessible from Stronghold, much less a community wellness center or dedicated park space. I urge the zoning commission to support the VMP plan and move forward with development of a site that has had no utility for many decades.

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