

DC Zoning Commission
Community Testimony
Gwen Southerland
McMillan Park Reservoir, Case # 13-14
Medical Office Buildings
May 8, 2014

My name is Gwen Southerland, and I have been involved with all of the community activities regarding the redevelopment of McMillan Park Reservoir for over 20 years, since 1987. From 1998 until 2002, I also served two terms (4 years) as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 5C07, for the McMillan site, and I represented a large section of Bloomingdale, all of the Stronghold community and a small portion of the Edgewood community.

At no time, not one resident has ever expressed the desire for the high-rise office buildings on McMillan. Many community residents have suggested that the medical office buildings can be constructed on the current medical complex. By utilizing their air space and the surface parking space, for medical office space.

What I have heard expressed over these many years is a world class park, the need for a grocery store, (and there is a consensus) and some retail and restaurants—to be placed at the Michigan Avenue, instead of the massive high-rise buildings.

Residents of the Stronghold community that is adjacent to and within the 200 feet of the McMillan site are infuriated and frightened that the

development of a high-rise office complex will generate way more traffic congestion, will block those great views that those homeowners now enjoy.

They find that the proposed height, density and placement of such a medical high-rise complex to be unacceptable. Hence, I would humbly ask this Commission to reject the plan for any high-rise office buildings on the McMillan site.

Thank you,