

Kiernan Whitworth- Testimony in Support of the VMP plan for McMillan

Homeowner - 2412 N. Capitol St 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)).

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to hear from residents closely affected by this development project. My name is Kiernan Whitworth, and almost four years ago my brother and I purchased a townhome on the 2400 block of North Capitol Street in hopes of the McMillan site being developed. When we purchased our house and still today, friends and family have consistently asked “why would you want to live there?”

Our first weekend in the neighborhood, my car was broken into. Since then, we have experienced four more car break-ins, a successful theft of one car, and our house was robbed while we were out of town for my brother’s wedding. I’m sharing this with you because I still believe we can be a great, safe neighborhood for future generations. For us, the McMillan development project is the sign of hope for better things to come.

Right now it is not as easy as it should be in a city to do our weekly grocery shopping. We either drive to the Giant off of Rhode Island Avenue or select from sparse shelves at the markets adjacent to our house. The 50,000 square foot grocery in the current McMillan development plan is a wonderful overdue addition for the residents in our neighborhood. Also, having the 10 to 12 local shops and restaurants so close, as the plans indicate, would give us even more of a neighborhood feel.

We purchased our house as entry level government employees, so as you can imagine we weren’t bringing in the big bucks. Affordable housing was a huge draw for us to this neighborhood, and it is refreshing to see that 20% of the housing units in the proposed plans will be affordable to households making 50-80% of the area median income.

I believe this development plan will help change our neighborhood into what we have always believed it could be and soon friends and family will be telling us how much they wish they lived there.

Thank you for your time.