

Testimony for the Public Hearing of CASE NO. 16-11

**Park View Community Partners & District of Columbia –
Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment @ Square 2890, Part of Lot 849**

**Before the Zoning Commission
Chairman Anthony Hood**

December 5, 2016
Sam Bell

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am a homeowner in ANC1B and a volunteer with Jews United for Justice. I have appeared twice before this Commission in support of more affordable housing in this city. The need is so great. I won't make the case again other than to say that ensuring an adequate supply of affordable, decent housing should be the highest priority for DC's decision makers.

The objections to this project pale in comparison to the benefits. Others have talked about the benefits – no displacement for Park Morton residents, 302 units of affordable housing, 448 jobs, etc – so I won't dwell on that. I don't want to minimize the concerns because any neighborhood change can feel bad. But, casting shadows on neighboring row houses cannot be the reason not to go forward with this project. When it comes to green space, even if DC doesn't deliver on its promise to conserve part of the park during and after construction, google maps tells me that Banneker is .3 miles (a 6-minute walk) from Bruce Monroe. Banneker is one of the loveliest public facilities in DC. As someone who goes there quite often – google maps says I'm a mile walk away – I see two fields that are often not used. I see a beautiful playground that is not used. There are two full length basketball courts that do get good use but they actually usually need more players (young and old)! There are I think 14 public tennis courts of the finest quality. The swimming pool does get crowded but my understanding is that Bruce Monroe does not have a swimming pool to begin with. Whats my point? If you live next to Bruce Monroe you are closer to a world-class public park – Banneker – than I'd guess 90% of DC residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

