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To: [DCOZ - ZC Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to park tower (16-11)
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Dear DC Zoning Commission:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE replacing Bruce Monroe Community Park with a high-rise penthouse tower. (Case 16-11)

The city's new Comprehensive Plan requires a thorough impact assessment -- ensuring that negative impacts on neighborhoods, transportation, environmental quality, and other issues are assessed and adequately mitigated. The DC Appeals court made clear this was not thoroughly done.

The Bruce Monroe Community Park is a highly-used green space and park, playground and sporting outlet for numerous neighbors in and around the park. As a member of the BMCP Community Garden for years, my family and I rely on the park as an outlet for getting our hands dirty, planting some delicious food crops, and teaching our 2 kids to garden and where food comes from (ie: the Earth). We also love to play basketball, and our youngest loves to play on the playground!

For so many reasons (ie: public health, mental health, greenspace preservation, climate mitigation, clean air, community strength, etc...), the city needs to stop paving over and developing existing green spaces and open spaces, and instead prioritize their protection and enhancement. If the city is to ever reach its 40% tree canopy goal, places like Bruce Monroe Community Park need a LOT MORE trees to be planted, and a LOT LESS development. There are plenty of other places to develop around the city.

PLEASE, let's not develop open spaces like Bruce Monroe Community Park, and instead focus on how to make such spaces community gathering spaces and artistic and green spaces that help provide respite from a busy and polluted city, where neighbors can gather together and get to know each other better. This will also help in the city's goal of reducing crime and building equity for all residents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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