

**TESTIMONY OF GRETCHEN M. RANDOLPH
CO-FOUNDER OF THE SPRING VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE D.C. ZONING COMMISSION IN
ZC CASE NO. 16-23
JANUARY 11, 2018**

Good evening Chairman Hood and Commissioners. My name is Gretchen Randolph and I am here as a resident of Spring Valley and also on behalf of the Spring Valley Neighborhood Association (SVNA).

I co-founded SVNA back in February of last year because William and I believed that there was a real opportunity to get more of our neighbors engaged in relevant community issues. Since then, hundreds of Spring Valley neighbors are now involved in our association, and we have forged positive, collaborative relationships with other community stakeholders. We recognize that we are a relatively new neighborhood organization, and we do not claim to represent all Spring Valley residents. We do, however, represent an active and engaged group of neighbors who support responsible development and positive growth, and we greatly appreciate the Commission allowing us to testify on this important matter.

Now, the issue at hand that brings us all here tonight is the Valor Ladybird development proposal, and the potential impact that this project will have on the surrounding area. As previously noted, SVNA represents residents of the Spring Valley neighborhood, including residents in Spring Valley West and along Massachusetts Ave. While the impacts of the project on our side of Massachusetts Ave. may differ somewhat from those in AU Park, we believe that Spring Valley neighborhood residents, including homeowners represented by SVNA, are likely to be affected by various impacts of this proposed project.

SVNA has worked hard to reach out to our neighbors and get their reaction to the proposed project. We were clear that people should talk to us candidly about their concerns and that we were collecting personal statements from them on their opposition and/or support of the project. We reached out to over 200 of our neighbors and we received nothing in opposition. In addition to the numerous support letters emailed from separate households directly to the Zoning Commission in the last three months, I have additional support letters which I would like to submit for the record. While we understand that petitions from over a year ago have been submitted to the Commission, we feel it is critically important to consider neighbors' views on the modified current project proposal.

Just to quote a few of the statements that we received:

"We live in the neighborhood across Massachusetts Ave and are very much in favor of a grocery store that we can walk to...we have attended nearly all of Valor's informational meetings and have been very impressed with how Valor incorporated input from the community into their plans." - John & Helen Lyons

"I find the renderings of the buildings aesthetically pleasing and do not find the scale of the buildings proposed to be "massive" as they are currently being characterized by detractors...rather than a negative impact on the neighborhood, having a grocery store will actually improve home values." - Linda & Jerry Stevens

"The traffic and parking implications seem well thought out and manageable for the neighborhood. " The Gamo Family

The most important takeaway for the Commission is that while there is opposition to this project, there is also a great deal of community support. Thank you for your time, and we hope to see this project through.