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December 21, 20016

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Suite 210  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**RE: Case Number 16-23. Proposal for Design Review and Development by Valor Development, LLC Square 1499 Lots 802, 803, 807 in American University Park, District of Columbia.**

Dear Commissioners:

I want to register my strongest objections to the ANC3-E/Valor Plan to construct a monstrous shopping and apartment complex on the foot of Yuma St. N.W.

I live and work on Yuma St. N.W. I've been at the above address since 1991. As part of the advance preparation for the development, ANC3-E turned Yuma St. into an Autobahn. Several years ago, the allegedly *Advisory* Neighborhood Commission stopped the cross-town bus which traveled Yuma for more than 70 years. (Caregivers of color lost their transportation.) Instead of giving the bus lane to the residents for badly-needed parking, the ANC kept it open and removed traffic lights. Commuters from the suburbs and truck traffic greatly increased because of the new throughway. Yuma has now become a convenient short cut between Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues.

This is directly tied to the shopping and apartment complex.


With the Valor monstrosity obviously long-planned, the intent evidently had been to keep a lane free of parked cars for a shuttle bus to run from the complex to the Tenleytown subway station. While this might keep a few cars off the street, shoppers and renters at the development will clog the already-busy residential street. Moreover, large trucks carrying goods for sale to the commercial center will use Yuma St. since it's such an expedient link between two major thoroughfares. And with parking allowed only on one side of the street, business traffic will be expedited.

Valor and ANC3-E have a problem with the truth. A Valor representative has stated it was involved with the Georgetown Day School Expansion. When the School turned to Valor to ostensibly help concentrate its campuses, the emphasis was on the educational advantages. They did such a good job selling the concept that residents believed taking a huge Safeway and good-sized Volvo dealership off the tax rolls was a benefit. Now that the community has learned that the school and Valor will construct 90-foot buildings full of shops and apartments, rather than classrooms, they are incensed.

Since ANC3-E won't act for the benefit of the city's residents, it's up to the Zoning Commission to protect us from our own government. The Valor plan is an outrageous land grab designed to fill many pockets with an obscene amount of cash. Please reject this proposal in its entirety.

As one individual remarked at an ANC3-E hearing on Yuma St. parking, "in D.C., crazy always wins."

Sincerely yours,



J. Michael Springmann  
Attorney & Counselor at Law

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.16-23  
EXHIBIT NO.16