

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)

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Dear DC Zoning Commission

I am writing to provide support for the planned development project called, The Lady Bird Project located at the corner of 48th Street NW and Yuma Street NW in AU Park, specifically 4330 48th Street, NW.

Washington, DC, Spring Valley and AU Park need the redevelopment of the former Super Fresh site. I remember when Super Fresh announced it was going to close and the shock that rippled through the community was tremendous. The Super Fresh was not just a local super market, it was a community center that connected the local neighborhoods. People walked to the Super Fresh for their weekly groceries and popped in when they were out of milk, needed ice or were missing an ingredient in something they were baking. Every trip was complete with running into a neighbor and catching up.

The loss of Super Fresh was a loss for the community, and over the years the community has forgotten how vital this meeting point was, as they have driven to various Safeways and Wholefoods in the area and lost the connectivity.

The neighborhood needs The Lady Bird Project. The supermarket business operates on thin margins and after Super Fresh closed there were rumors a new grocer was going to come in to the space, but that never materialized. It is my guess that the smaller size of the space and the economics played a big part of that decision.

I have reviewed the latest development plan that Valor Development submitted to the ANC and fully support the project and any zoning changes that are required to make it a reality. There was recently a large debate over the approval of a new restaurant in the neighborhood called Millie's. Now that Millie's is open and operating, everyone loves it and many of the naysayers are regular customers.

The proposed development by Valor seems to be a good compromise between keeping the scale of the project manageable and at the same time making a new grocery store, which we desperately need, economically viable. My guess is when the Lady Bird project is complete, and the new grocery store is open the neighborhood will again be reunited and connected and everyone will be rejoicing the return of a local neighborhood grocer.

Failure to approve the Lady Bird project will mean the neighborhood will endure another decade plus of a vacant former Super Fresh, a vacant parking lot, and lost revenue to the District of Columbia.

Sincerely

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