

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Bernita Ward <onewalkingwoman43@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 7:17 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Muhammad, Holly (SMD 8A01)
Subject: (Zoning Case #17-17) (1401 22nd ST SE)

Letter of support to have the lot located at 1401 22nd Street SE Zoned Residential

The lot at 1401 22nd Street SE is already a part of our residential community. The lot is surrounded on the streets closest to it by homes- single family, town and apartments. Anacostia National Park is directly across the street from the lot. All points north, south, east and west of the lot consist of residences.

We live in our community just as others do in their communities. We walk or drive or bike throughout and beyond our community and we come back home. We go to work, to school, to appointments as other residents of other communities do. We come back to our community that we have helped to establish and maintain overtime. We know what is best for us.

We have set goals and priorities for our community which are city goals that tie us to other communities. Our goals and priorities are:

1. keep areas free of trash and debris
2. maintain existing properties
3. seek additional housing and counseling
4. become more healthful
5. improve our schools through participation and
6. seek job training and employment opportunities.

We are very careful in our community moving about the streets especially with allowing our children and seniors to walk unaccompanied. The traffic that comes from Interstate 295 and Pennsylvania Avenue on to 22nd, Nicholson and Prout Streets is heavy and fast and overbearing. We have had to handle this traffic, almost on our own, for years but we cannot allow any other traffic to come into our community. We cannot manage the extra traffic, the extra wear and tear on our streets and the additional safety of our community that a cube smart storage facility would bring. Two years ago we said no to the storage facility. We have not changed our minds. We still say no.

Our community is a growing community and we have moved ahead. A new state of the art elementary school is opening in SY2018-2019, just down the street from 1401 22nd Street. Along with some new innovative teachers and programs our children will move forward in this changing community and city. Both Kramer Middle School and Anacostia High School have recently been renovated to the extent that any teen with the approval of family would be excited to attend. All of these schools are within walking distance of each other.

We are now tackling a new problem. We need housing for young families and for seniors who live in our community. Many young families are living in single rooms in other people's homes. They need the space to grow. We also need housing for seniors with everything needed to run a household on one level.

Some change has begun to take place in the community regarding housing. It is a community that is in transition. Many of the residence that have been established for over 30 years have recently been sold. Some were remodeled moderately and sold. Some are being completely renovated showing us what the homes we now live in will look like in the future.

To this growing community with new members coming each day what might possibly be added are more homes designed for families with children allowing this community to grow and prosper even more.