

Written Testimony of Mary S. Mims

Zoning Case 17-17 (Square 5564, Lot 812, 1401 22nd St. SE)

In Support of Rezoning 1401 22nd St. SE from PDR-1 to RA-2

March 19, 2018

Chairman Hood and members of the Zoning Commission:

My name is Mary S. Mims and I am a homeowner at 1406 22nd St. SE, #H, across the street from 1401 22nd St. SE. I am writing in support of the Office of Planning's recommendation to rezone 1401 22nd St. SE from commercial to residential, for all of the reasons stated in their report (Exhibit 22) but also because of the direct impact this will have on the enjoyment of my property.

I have lived in the Fairlawn neighborhood for over 3 years. I found this property after walking in Anacostia Park. The neighborhood surrounding Anacostia Park is overwhelmingly residential; the idea of allowing a huge storage facility to be put at the mouth of a National Park and in the middle of a residential area would change the very character of our neighborhood.

I have grave concerns about the traffic impact a storage facility of this nature would have on 22nd Street. The intersection of the facility has no light, is a five way intersection (where two of the streets are one way) and has heavy foot traffic. While day to day traffic on 22nd Street is heavy during morning and evening rush hour, during the summer months when Anacostia Park is heavily used the traffic on 22nd Street is heavy all day. Allowing a facility like this to be placed at that corner would negatively impact the residents of 22nd Street and the many pedestrians who walk in the area.

Lastly, the owners of the site have proven to be bad neighbors by ignoring the community's opposition to a storage facility being built in their neighborhood. In 2016, there was a community meeting held by Commissioner Holly Muhammad at Orr Elementary School with the owners of the property, there the community explicitly stated their opposition to this project. The community has made their opposition known to every Ward 8 ANC Commission, DC Councilmembers, DC Government Agencies and just about anyone who has listened. If the owners had taken any time to meet with the immediate neighbors or even the Ward 8 community at large they would have known about the community's opposition to the existing plans.

I ask that you help us maintain the great character of our residential neighborhood by allowing 1401 22nd Street SE to be rezoned from commercial to residential.