

Thank you, commissioners, for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. My name is Pamela McKinney, and I live in Southwest DC with my husband and two-month-old daughter. I am also the president of SW Community Gardens, which is only a few blocks from the proposed project. I am speaking to you tonight as a concerned SW resident.

As I understand it, the 2015 SW Neighborhood Plan is supposed to be a guiding document for development in SW. This plan states, "Southwest will remain an exemplary model of equity and inclusion - a welcoming and engaged community that celebrates and retains a mix of races, ages and income levels and enhances well-being for all amidst neighborhood growth and change." Residents stated in the plan that they wanted "new housing developments to offer varied products, especially units sized for families." As this is the guiding document for SW, every project should be analyzed with the SW plan in mind.

Thus, I find that this project does not meet the standards laid out in the SW Plan. Looking at the design, there is no "unified presence in the neighborhood" as the applicant states for this project. It does not match any of the nearby buildings in Southwest, but rather relies heavily on the designs across South Capitol, which other than St. Vincent's Church, were built this century. It does not incorporate any of the historic elements of SW that residents noted they wanted to see in future projects. This building is not situated between SW and Navy Yard as the applicant claims. It is firmly in SW and will be the gateway to SW, just as the ANC noted in their statement of opposition.

Returning to the SW Plan and its stated goal that SW be an exemplary model of equity and inclusion, I find nothing in this project that incorporates these goals. The pitiful amount of affordable housing offered does not speak to equity or inclusion. Even JBG Smith has its own stated goals toward diversity and inclusion -- "At JBG SMITH, we know that prioritizing diversity and inclusion is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do." However, it seems these are just words and not actually in practice, especially not in this project. There is no diversity in the design to reflect SW's historic elements, as ANC6D also noted. The abysmal amount of diversity in offering 3-bedroom family-sized units (.3% to be exact) in the full housing model for this project is insulting when they say that prioritizing diversity and inclusion is the "smart thing to do".

I ask the Commission to please reject this development until the project design is an example of equity and inclusion per the SW neighborhood plan and includes one-third market-rate, one-third workforce, and one-third deeply affordable units. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.