

To the DC Zoning Commission:

As a 12-year resident of SW, I have witnessed with growing disgust how developers like the Steuart Investment Company are routinely given the carte blanc power to build exorbitantly priced housing, retail and other space; exacerbate the gentrification of this and other historically Black neighborhoods; and thus, drive the displacement -- truly the economic deportation -- of untold numbers of predominantly Black, older, disabled, and working poor people out of their homes and communities throughout DC.

Over the years, successive DC Mayors, Councilmembers, and members of the Zoning Commission have either explicitly or implicitly empowered developers to engage in such ruthlessly unjust practices. SIC's proposal before the Commission to build a mixed-use development on an 126k+ square feet plot of land at Buzzard's Point is one piece of evidence of how this unregulated culture of greed and greenlining is thriving: Forcing thousands of children, women, and men to flee your, my, and, yes, most certainly, their city.

Another disturbing piece of hard evidence of how this culture is so corrosive lies in this Commission's actions and its use of the so-called design review process as a ploy to extricate all of you from your legal and moral responsibility of making decisions on proposals before the regulatory body based on all required criteria, including how the proposed land use will add to or detract from the availability of affordable, accessible housing. Your action or inaction that enabled developers to build 3000 units of Unaffordable housing without adding even one unit of affordable housing is proof of the Commission's utter antipathy towards taking any action to address the ever-growing housing crisis in the midst of what we must assumed to be a long-term pandemic and economic upheaval.

You have a duty to immediately heed Attorney General Racine's recent call to the Commission to take decisive emergency action to revise the design review rules so that the process works to assure the developmental and availability of affordable housing, including deeply affordable housing, in every neighborhood and ANC sector. Consistent with this, the Commission must defer making any decisions on this or similar proposed projects until this is done.

Thank you,

Bob Williams
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Bob Williams
Pronouns: He, him, and his

"A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions, but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury." John Stuart Mill, On Liberty. <http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mLLbty1.html>

"I (choose) to love my country and still love justice. I don't want just any greatness for it, particularly a greatness born of blood and falsehood. I want to keep it alive by keeping justice alive." Albert Camus, 1943 -- Letter(#1) to A German Friend (Resistance, Rebellion and Death). <http://bit.ly/2m8NwIj> "