Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Mara Lee <marabarco@gmail.com>
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To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Hanover Reed Street development

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I would like to submit testimony on ZC Case 22-04.

I support the building of 683 new units in the development. I would support more units being built if the developer finds demand strong enough to build the second and third buildings at a greater height.

I appreciate that 15% of the units will be designated for affordable housing, but I think the mix of affordability levels should center around 50% AMI rather than 60% AMI, because at 50%, the rents are low enough that Section 8 voucher holders could rent an apartment.

According to this document

https://dhcd.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dhcd/publication/attachments/2021-6-25%20IZ%20ADU%20price%20schedule.pdf

A two-bedroom at 50% AMI has a maximum rent of \$1,400 a month; a two-bedroom at 60% AMI has a maximum rent at \$1,680; a Section 8 voucher is limited to \$1,550 a month for a two-bedroom in our zipcode.

From my perspective, it would be worth it to lose some 60%-pegged units to get more 50% pegged units, because the value to people who are struggling to pay their rent is so much greater at that price point.

It's even more true for 1-bedrooms, where the rent at 50% is \$1,160 vs. \$1,400. There are one-bedroom apartments already available in our neighborhood around \$1,400, in buildings with fewer amenities. (One at the end of my block at the Brookland, just rented; another example: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/4123-13th-Pl-NE-Washington-DC-20017/498717 zpid/)

It is not important to me that there be 'maker' space in the PUD, I would rather see more housing units.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my views.

Mara Lee 1011 Jackson St NE