

From: the1617project@savcdpublicland.org
To: [DCOZ - ZC Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: Request of the Commission in ZC Case 23-02: Please Include on Record for Commissioners
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:08:38 PM
Attachments: [notice1617uwitness.png](#)
[anc1b1.png](#)
[anc1b2.png](#)
[anc1b3.png](#)

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION
ZC Case 23-02
Request for Postponement & Assistance
November 16, 2023

Dear DC Zoning Commission,

My name is Debby Hanrahan. I am a co-founder of Save DC Public Land: The 1617 Project (formerly U Street AIR). I am a member of this group who along with others, some who just adjacent to the Police station and Fire station at 1617 U Street, will be adversely impacted and harmed by the approval of the application in ZC Case #23-02.

I am asking you on behalf of our group, and likely on behalf of others in the neighborhood who are also in our situation and may not even know it yet, to postpone the hearing to notice the entire neighborhood served by the 3D Police and Engine 9 Fire stations (within ANC 1B, ANC 2B, ANC 1C) to at least be aware they can participate as parties versus simply as public witnesses.

The notice for the hearing on Monday, November 20, 2023 makes no mention of this right to ask to become a party. While, party status was not possible as we understand for the hearing earlier in June, we have just come to understand that for Monday's hearing on November 20, 2023, we do have the right to ask to be parties. But we didn't know that from the notice.

Here's some context for our request:

Sadly many people don't know of the hearing at all who live nearby. Moreover, those who got the notice didn't know that you could become a party, and just like us were under the impression we could only testify as individual witnesses due to what is in the current notice (see below).

With some help, we have become a little more familiar with using the Office of Zoning online case search. Last week we found Case #23-02 and the files in the case. In those files we saw some people & groups asked for party status. And, we now know that party status is different than just testifying as witnesses.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.23-02
EXHIBIT NO.387

We inquired with Ms. Ackerman in your office how to become a party. Ms. Ackerman explained it was too late to apply, and that the deadline had passed. We asked her where in the notice does it discuss how to become a party and any associated deadlines with that. As far as we know, there has been no response back as of yet to this specific question about the notice from your office.

Please correct us if we are wrong:

The notice for this hearing, which we think is exhibit #316 says nothing about party status requests. It only offers for the public to be witnesses, as far as we can tell.

<https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/ViewExhibit.aspx?exhibitId=320070>

How to participate as a witness – oral presentation

Interested persons or representatives of organizations may be heard at the virtual public hearing. All individuals, organizations, or associations wishing to testify in this case **are strongly encouraged to sign up to testify at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing** on OZ's website at <https://dcoz.dc.gov/> or by calling Ella Ackerman at (202) 727-0789 in order to ensure the success of the virtual public hearing procedures.

The Commission also request that all witnesses prepare their testimony in writing, submit the written testimony prior to giving statements, and limit oral presentations to summaries of the most important points. The Commission must base its decision on the record before them. The following maximum time limits for oral testimony shall be adhered to and no time may be ceded:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Organizations | 5 minutes each |
| 2. Individuals | 3 minutes each |

How to participate as a witness - written statements

Written statements, in lieu of personal appearances or oral presentation, may be submitted for inclusion in the record, provided that **all written comments and/or testimony must be submitted to the record at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing, unless approved by the Commission upon request to be introduced at the public hearing.** The public is encouraged to submit written testimony through the Interactive Zoning Information System (IZIS) at <https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Login.aspx>; however, written statements may also be submitted by e-mail to zcsubmissions@dc.gov. Please include the case number on your submission. If you are unable to use either of these means of submission, please contact Ella Ackerman at (202) 727-0789 for further assistance.

The affected ANC 1B also has a notice on their website likely cribbing from the OZ notice and there too we don't find any information about party status or instructions as to how to become one or any deadlines about party status.

<https://www.anc1b.org/economic-development>



ZPD Committee

Commissioner Tucker Jones,
Chair

Email: 1B09@anc.dc.gov

Meeting: Third Monday of
the month

[Contact the ZPD committee](#)



Office of Planning Setdown Report

The Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing on 11/20/23 at 4:00 p.m.. The Commission explains how to participate in the hearing notice which can be found at the following link:

<https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Exhibits/2010/ZC/23-02/Exhibit444.pdf>

- All who wish to testify in this case are strongly encouraged to sign up to do so at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing on OZ's website at [https://dcoz.dc.gov/service/sign\[1\]testify](https://dcoz.dc.gov/service/sign[1]testify)
 - How to participate as a witness – oral statements. On the day of the hearing – by 3:00 p.m., call 202-727-0789 to sign up to testify.
 - All written comments and/or testimony must be submitted to the record at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing

up to testify.

- All written comments and/or testimony must be submitted to the record at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing – see below: How to participate as a witness – written statements.

The ANC 1B Economic Development Committee held public meetings on this project with a focus on the zoning map amendment on February 16 and March 16. On April 6, 2023, the full ANC 1B discussed and passed on the following resolution regarding the map amendment:

[ANC 1B 2023 resolution](#)

On October 19, 2023, the ANC 1B Economic Development Committee held a public meeting on this project with a focus on what the community would like to see at the site regardless of the zoning decision. The presentation from that meeting can be found here: [1617 U Street DMPED Presentation](#)

In conclusion, we are asking the DC Zoning Commission to postpone the hearing to allow the entire neighborhood served by the Police and Fire stations (within ANC 1B, ANC 2B, ANC 1C) to at least be aware they can participate as parties versus simply as public witnesses.

We are asking the Zoning Commission to decide on this at the public meeting tonight, November 16,, 2023, so that all interested witnesses can understand what will happen on Monday November 20, 2023, and there are no surprises.

Thank you,

Debby Hanrahan
Co-founder Save DC Public Land (formerly U Street
AIR)
202-854-1822

* Please include this letter and attachments in the record for
ZC Case #23-02. Thank you.