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From: districtveteranbraintrust@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 10:48 AM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Schellin, Sharon (DCOZ)
Subject: ZC Case 23-02: Opposition to the incompatible 1617 U Street rezoning

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Dear Zoning Commissioners,

I ask this be included in the public record for ZC Case Number 23-02 and to sign me up to testify virtually to elaborate on my opposition comments below.

I'd like the Zoning Commission to postpone the hearing until OP completes impact studies and actually plans this site together with the directly impacted community.

First, no one pushing this application has come to our neighborhood to meaningfully discuss the long term impacts this rezoning will imminently have on our community (late night ANC meetings don't constitute well-attended or noticed conversations).

Not the Mayor, not the Councilmember, not the Office of Planning has knocked on our doors or held a townhall specific to this project to discuss their desire to blow up 1617 U Street with a high-density rezoning.

And the disregard of our voices continues with the recent OP report saying they may come back later with some other text amendments to fix their broken MU10 rezoning application. How about they come to us first to discuss what may be appropriate before experimenting in real time at public hearings. This should be a open transparent dialog, not a shell game between DC's planners and the impacted public.

We can build four stories of affordable housing on top of a new police station and fire station along U Street, easily without years of construction of a twelve-story building. We can include an underground parking garage for the first responders needs. We can include a library. We can include a park and much needed public green space in this area.

None of these grand visions listed above rely on a completely unprecedented blowout of the zoning at this site that would completely conflict with the prevailing development patterns of the immediate community.

Please send OP back to the community so they can listen to nearby neighbors before coming back with a real plan that is collaborative, not more unnecessary antagonism.

Signed,

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