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To: [DCOZ - ZC Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Cc: [Schellin, Sharon \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: Need for community engagement by the applicant for 1617 U Street: Case No. 23-02
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To the Office of Zoning and Commissioners,

Please see my written comments below (for the record) in opposition to the rezoning application for 1617 U Street NW.

I am asking you to postpone any vote on the 1617 U Street re-zoning until the community is all welcomed to at least one large community forum to get feedback, discuss ideas and concerns with code officials and planning experts, and take extensive feedback on the impact of rezoning this site to something unlike anything else in the area.

For, not the applicant OP, not DMPED, not the Mayor, not the Ward Councilmembers -- none of these city officials pushing the zoning change at 1617 U Street has hosted a 1617 U Street specific meeting to discuss upzoning, zoning definitions, the planning jargon, any implications to these proposed changes, or any evaluations of impacts by the zoning change on the community at all. These city officials have failed transparent, community-first dialog and discussion about one of the biggest zoning amendments in the history of the area. This is absolutely unacceptable.

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 an open transparent dialog, not a shell game between DC's planners and the impacted public.

There are no areas zoned this way in the vicinity or in the surrounding neighborhoods. This is a downtown sized rezoning (MU10) and what likely will resolve into a downtown sized 'by-right' building at this location.

This is a game changer for our community and its not being discussed very openly which is troublesome especially because of the jargon involved.

I can't seem to fathom how the DC Zoning Commission could even begin to consider supporting this rezoning application without knowing more about the obvious impacts & harms as well as potential solutions to the issues and even the benefits that may affect your constituents.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
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