

Dear staff at the Zoning Office,

I am writing to express my deep concern, and to oppose the upzoning of 1617 U street from MY-4 (low rise), to MU-10 I11 stories.

My family lives right opposite the police station, and - if confirmed - this project would considerably reduce air, light, and view for us and for all the houses around the block. The plan does not confirm the number of affordable units, therefore increasing concerns around density and livability of the area. In addition, we saw no guarantee of public amenities and no studies related to traffic and environmental impact, as well as no mention of the impact that this project would have on Strivers Section historic district.

More generally, the engagement of the public officials around this projet has been inadequate, as demonstrated for example by the lack of reporting from the July 2022 DMPED meeting, or by the lack of information shared about today's meeting that has been labelled as "administrative" and that is not allowing for public comments. The community has not been adequately consulted, and now it looks like we have to wait until May for a formal hearing to testify.

Finally, the current area includes a wonderful mix of households, many of which have been living in the area for many, many years. This project poses a substantial risk of displacement of existing affordable housing.

These are the main reasons why I oppose the upzoning of 1617 U street from MY-4 (low rise), to MU-10 I11 stories. I hope that public officials will take these and other households' concerns into account, and a middle ground can be found.

Thank you.

Submitted on 2/23/2023 by:

Elena Mondo

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