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28 May 2013

Dear Deputy Mayor Hoskins,

Friends of McMillan Park respectfully requests that you cancel the hearing scheduled for Thursday, 6 June 2013, to be convened by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) to discuss the proposal to declare the McMillan Sand Filtration Site (2501 1st Street NW) as surplus public property. We make this appeal because DMPED has yet to make available many of the legally required public documents and information needed to fully and meaningfully evaluate and comment on the proposal. To wit:

- DC Code § 10-801 requires that the Mayor present analysis explaining:
    - Whether the land has any necessary use by the District and why, including economic factors and policy objectives which serve as the basis for this decision and a description of how competition for the land may be maximized, as well as a description of how the economic and policy objectives will be weighted and evaluated in the disposition process, and,
    - What public benefit would obtain by selling, or keeping, the land.
- DMPED has an "Exclusive Rights Agreement" with Vision McMillan Partners (VMP), the consultant that DMPED intends to use as the vertical developer for the site. That agreement has been the subject of a FOIA request filed on 17 October 2012 and again on 11 May 2013. To date, DMPED has yet to respond to these FOIA requests and has yet to produce the requested public documents for public inspection. Both the Exclusive Rights Agreement and the reports required by DC Code § 10-801 should be made available for public examination prior to any hearing on the proposed surplus declaration for the McMillan Sand Filtration Site.

- DMPED has yet to update the Fiscal and Economic Impact Analysis for the McMillan Park project since June 2011 to reflect the changes to the deal structure resulting from the addition of the DC Water infrastructure project in late 2012.

Thus, we request that you cancel the McMillan Sand Filtration Site surplus hearing scheduled for 6 June 2013 until all the relevant documents are made publicly available, including those subject to our FOIA request, and the public has adequate time to review these documents and provide substantive comments. Without these key documents, the public is unable to meaningfully evaluate the Mayor's intentions and decisions and to respond to the proposed decision in a rational, meaningful way.

We should avoid rushing to judgment on McMillan Park, which represents one of the last remaining large tracts of finite public land in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

Hugh Youngblood
Friends of McMillan Park
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