

Points for McMillan Park Community Testimony and Letters to DC Zoning Commission

Please consider the following points as you draft your letter or testimony in opposition to the Mayor's plan to destroy McMillan Park (Zoning case # 13-14):

- Focus on the overall adverse and **unacceptable** impacts that the proposed project would have on the surrounding community and how these impacts would greatly exceed any proposed benefits.
- **Transportation**- traffic congestion, loss of parking, lack of metro station, unsafe environment for walkers and bikers
- **Loss of Historic Resources**- the entire park is a local and national landmark; the underground caverns are majestic and magnificent. The historic views of the monuments and other landmarks surrounding the park are protected historic resources.
- **Loss of Open Space**- this is already a 25-acre park even though the government currently restricts public access
- **Environmental impacts**- storm water / sewage infrastructure, air quality, clean water, etc
- **Homeland Security**- fire/emergency response times, strategic water security, terrorist attacks
- **Gentrification**- the proposed project would intensify gentrification in Bloomingdale and the surrounding communities by injecting million-dollar condos that would exacerbate the speculative residential real estate bubble and thereby wipe out any remaining affordable housing in the neighborhoods adjacent to McMillan Park.
- The DC Office of Planning has failed to adequately coordinate with relevant agencies as required by law.
- **Conflict of Interest**- Jeff Miller (Director of Real Estate for the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development) previously served as an executive at Trammell Crow Company (the developer trying to build high rise medical office buildings in McMillan Park).
- **Corruption**- the 3 previous politicians who supported the project are now in jail. Is McDuffie next? [Commissioner Dianne Barnes](#) (ANC 5E, SMD 5E09) has also exhibited an increasing pattern of corrupt behavior related to the plan.
- **Waste, fraud, and abuse**- the government is funding a Baltimore-based PR firm to create a fake grassroots movement ("Neighbors of McMillan" / "Create McMillan Park") in attempt to discredit and neutralize genuine community opposition to the proposed nightmare development project. ([Here's a copy of the VMP "astroturf" campaign plan.](#)) The same PR firm was responsible for [creating fake community support for Walmart in Baltimore.](#)
- The aspiring development team (VMP) does not own the parkland, so this zoning application is a waste of time and taxpayer resources.
- **Letters must include you First Name, Last Name, Street Address, and Signature.**