

Re: HPA # 14-393, Mayor's Agent Hearing on McMillan Park

Dear Mr. Timothy Dennee:

Through this letter, I would like to submit my written testimony in opposition to the proposed demolition permit for McMillan Park's underground historic structures. The project as proposed by VMP lacks sufficient special merit to justify demolition of these historic structures. The houses would not be affordable at 50% AMI, there is no need to have these medical facilities at this location that is far from the metro and will cause major traffic impact, there is no tenant for such medical offices, and the estimated jobs are exaggerated and are not anticipated to be local or even from DC and have been discredited by construction experts.

McMillan Park was designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. for the US Army Corps of Engineers, which built and operated the McMillan Sand Filtration Site. The 20-cell water filtration facility is located underneath part of the park. The site was designated a Historic Landmark by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office in 1991. In addition, the site is, since February 2013, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The development proposal submitted by VMP violates the DC Comprehensive Plan, and there are sufficient stable underground cells that could be restored and adaptively re-used.

The Office of Planning developed a site revitalization plan for McMillan Park in 2002 that recommended to: (i) revitalize minimum of 50% of the site as public open space, (ii) develop the remainder with low/moderate density; (iii) repurpose the underground filtration cells that are in relatively good condition.

I strongly urge you to deny the developer's request for a demolition permit. More than 7,000 people have signed a petition opposing this reckless development plan. The public owns the land. The community deserves a type of redevelopment that respects the landmark's historic structures and its sense of place as a grand open space.

Kind regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]