

## **McMillan Park Surplus and Disposition**

Dear Ms. Nyasha Smith:

Through this letter, I would like to submit my written testimony in opposition to the proposed surplus and disposition of historic McMillan Park.

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 was and is located underneath part of the park. The site was designated a Historic Landmark by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board in 1991. In addition, the site is, since February 2013, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Plan as submitted by VMP is in violation of the Comprehensive Plan, both in terms of height and density, destruction of open space and 90% of the underground historic structures. There are sufficient stable underground cells which 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 a minimum of 50% of the site as public open space, (ii) develop the remainder with low/moderate density, and (iii) repurpose the underground filtration cells that are in relatively good condition.

The public owns the land, which is an invaluable asset with a variety of potential public uses. The Mayor's development proposal is completely out of line with the DC Comprehensive Plan with unacceptable height and density and unacceptable negative impacts on the community in terms of traffic, failed intersections, impact on fire and emergency response times, parking, open space destruction, and negative impact on stability of land values in the neighborhood as a result of speculation.

More than 7,000 people have signed a petition opposing the current development plan. The community deserves a type of redevelopment that respects the historic character of McMillan Park and its sense of place, and a plan that does not give away public land for private profits in a no-bid, non-transparent, sweetheart real estate deal.

Kind regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]