

March 8, 2016

Office of the Surveyor
C/O Roland F. Dreist, Jr.
1100 4th Street, SW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Dreist,

The Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association (BNCA) writes to express our opposition to the proposed alley closure in Square 3843 (File Number S.O. 15-23936), . and to request that you recommend denial of the closure.

BNCA's mission is to provide a forum for considering and advancing the interests of Brookland residents, property owners and business owners related to issues affecting our Northeast DC community. BNCA supports development that enhances our quality of life and preserves the historic character of this unique place.

Unfortunately, the proposed development threatens the welfare and quality of life of the community:

- **Insufficient emergency vehicle access:** Current emergency access and egress is insufficient. On the evening of February 26, residents witnessed fire trucks struggle to operate their equipment in the narrow alley while responding to a call at the apartments behind the 2500/2600 block of 10th Street. The proposed alley closure will worsen emergency access. The proposed new alley off of Evarts Street (which includes a precarious 90-degree turn) will create insufficient emergency vehicle access, threatening the safety of Brookland residents.
- **Traffic:** The project will introduce a large increase in automobile traffic to the surrounding streets (while eliminating a current route of egress), ensuring gridlock at the already-failed and extremely dangerous intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and Reed Street for years to come.
- **Out-of-character development:** This alley closure will facilitate a 9-story structure that is out of character with the surrounding neighborhood and will come right up to the backdoor of the existing houses, blocking all views and sunlight.
- **Construction impacts:** The multi-year construction project poses a very real threat of property damage and injury to those currently living on this block.

Given these negative impacts, we urge you to recommend denial of the proposed closure. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Anita Hairston, President
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CC: Councilmember Kenyon McDuffie, Councilmember Phil Mendelson, ANC 5B04, Adams Investment Group