

From: lynn huang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2014 4:54 AM
To: Howerton, Leslye
Cc: John Schreiber
Subject: Sacks neighborhood

Dear Montgomery County Planning Department,

My husband and I own and live in our home in the Sacks neighborhood on Wellington Drive. We have lived here for the past 8 years and have had three lovely children while living here. We are a young family and enjoy many of the benefits as well as weathered the challenges of living "close in." We love the fact that we are able to live in a single family home with a yard (which includes a swing set) and are able to walk to our local school, preschool, and three parks in just a few minutes. The homes have "good bones" and are a wonderful place for young families to live. We love our neighbors and our sense of community albeit small. I am saddened by the thought of "getting rid" of our neighborhood for the sake of growth or sacrificing our neighborhood for "green space." Single family homes are much more attractive to young families than apartment complexes or condos. This small group of homes is the last of the remaining options for young families like us. As far as green space, we have Norwood Park within 5 minutes walking distance. My children and I walk there often. We also walk to the Leland/Jane Lawton Center and the pocket park by the Bethesda Library. There are two additional parks which we do not even frequent (Battery Park and Elm Street). Lastly, I am aghast at the lack of attention to infrastructure in the midst of all this growth. I am referring to two obvious issues, the local schools and walker-unfriendly traffic. Bethesda Elementary school is incredibly overcrowded with ugly trailers and a construction project going on. The school already has approximately 530 children in a building with a capacity of approx. 380 children. The construction includes three new classrooms for special ed with proposed capacity of approx 550 students. The construction will essentially allow the school catch up to the current situation with little additional capacity despite many new high-rises either in construction or slated for construction. As far as traffic goes, has anyone ever looked at how short the walk signal is at the corner of Bradley and Wisconsin? It is a tricky intersection to navigate. The drivers are often gunning the left turn (on Bradley turning onto Wisconsin) light only to turn during the short time interval for the walk signal. Another example is the intersection in front of Trader Joe's where drivers often do not allow you to cross or, if they do, they get honked by other drivers. Then, on top of all this traffic chaos, the construction or repair projects are exaggerating the already taxed traffic pattern. Oddly, they are putting in cross walks and traffic lights on the other side of Bradley where there is a golf course and private homes, hardly an area of high foot traffic. Perhaps, the planning department could spend more of its efforts on building logical infrastructure for the already incredible growth rather than taking our neighborhood for more growth. I would like to see our neighborhood grow by taking out some of the old unsightly apartment buildings and putting more single family homes in their space.

Lynn Huang