



**2021 – 2022
BOARD MEMBERS**

May 13, 2021

Susan Volman
President

Brooke Pinto, Councilmember
350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004

Charles Ellis
1st Vice-President

Marcy Logan
2nd Vice President

Dear Councilmember Pinto,

Tom Reiter
Secretary

We are writing to you on behalf of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) a registered nonprofit citizens association formed in 1922 to protect the interests of residents in Dupont Circle and across the District. DCCA is concerned about your recent, sudden vote to increase the prescribed residential density from medium to high at the current site of the police station and its parking facility at 17th and U Streets NW, within the DCCA boundaries. The site is located within Strivers' Section Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and during the late 19th and 20th centuries was home to upper-middle-class African Americans, including many community leaders.

Lance Salonia
Treasurer

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Nick Manning

Rebecca Martin

Diane Quinn

While we support affordable housing and possible co-located amenities such as a public library, the change to high density at this location has dire implications for Strivers' Section Historic District, which straddles U Street and Ward One and Two. High density at this site is entirely out of scale for the surrounding townhomes that significantly contribute to DC's historic fabric. And, while DC's Police Third District headquarters and parking structure are non-contributing buildings, the majority of properties in Strivers' Section were built between 1875 and 1946, and they include three townhomes (still standing) at 17th and U Streets NW that were owned by Frederick Douglass.

DCCA joins our sister organization, the Dupont Circle Conservancy (DCC), which has primary responsibility for reviewing projects on our local historic districts, in regretting that our organizations were not consulted earlier in the process and prior to your vote on Councilmember Nadeau's amendment to change the density. Because of the negative impact on the historic district, we urge you and the other the Councilmembers to rescind the amendment and work with the historic preservation community on a development solution for this site within the medium density envelope to preserve and protect this significant local and national treasure.

Sincerely,

Susan Volman, President

- and -

Lance Salonia, Regulatory Chair