

Richard L. Skolasky, Jr.
President, Original Northwood Association
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RE: City Council Bill #21-0156/Zoning - Conditional Use Parking Lot - 1207 and 1209 East 43rd Street and 1204 Springfield Avenue

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in my capacity as President of the Original Northwood Association and Trustee of the Greater Northwood Covenant Association on behalf of my fellow neighbors in the Original Northwood neighborhood of northeast Baltimore City to express our strong opposition to the zoning - conditional use parking lot proposed at the above referenced addresses (1207 and 1209 East 43rd Street and 1204 Springfield Avenue) by City Council Bill #21-0156.

While we acknowledge the important work that the League for People with Disabilities does to support residents of Baltimore city and the surrounding jurisdictions, we firmly believe that the use of these properties as parking lots is not the most valuable use of this space. The City should be investing its time and resources to preserve residential property that supports investment in community development and growth and/or maintenance of the current base of property taxes. In addition to losing three residential properties from the property tax roll, the current proposal would create more impervious surfaces that would require the use of hazardous chemicals to control snow and ice and add to problematic and polluting run-off during rainstorms. In addition, this proposal would greatly increase the "heat island" effect in the surrounding neighborhoods by reducing the critical tree canopy that is needed to ensure protection from ever increasing summer temperatures. Even if these deleterious effects could be mitigated, the close proximity of these properties to public transportation makes their continued residential use even more important.

On behalf of my neighbors in Original Northwood and fellow board members of the Original Northwood Association, I would like to register our strong opposition to the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Skolasky
President, Original Northwood Association
Trustee, Greater Northwood Covenant Association