
Report of threatened Navy Yard Metro renovation slowdown and Monument's Randall School PUD

Andy Litsky

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To Monument Realty and the Corcoran Gallery of Art:

I am distressed at the comments reported in The Washington Post ("*Protest Looms Over Bus Garage Site - Lawsuit Threatened by Unsuccessful Bidder for 2.2-Acre Parcel Near Stadium*", Sept. 28, 2007) that Jeffrey T. Neal, principal partner in Monument Realty, might slow the renovation of the Navy Yard Metro Station should his company not emerge victorious and gain ownership of the Metro Bus garage on M Street, SE. This would, quite clearly, cause massive transportation problems at the new baseball stadium. Now that Metro's Board of Directors has unanimously awarded the right to develop the property to a competing firm, what I have not heard is whether Monument's threat of a slowdown on the Metro station project (reported to be seven weeks behind already) is either inaccurate or has been withdrawn.

On Monday night, October 15, Monument Realty will appear before our ANC requesting support for their PUD at the Randall School site that will include, in addition to more than 450 residential units, the Corcoran College of Art and Design. As welcome an addition to the Southwest community as the Corcoran would be, I will have extraordinary difficulty supporting the project if Mr. Neal's comments, if accurately reported, remain outstanding. Consequently, unless Mr. Neal and Monument Realty withdraw this threat -- *in writing and in advance of our vote on Monday night* -- I will oppose this PUD at the ANC and in testimony before the Zoning Commission.

The time has finally come for District residents and policy makers to stand up to developers who use threats and lawsuits as leverage in one part of the city and yet expect -- and often receive -- support for their special projects, PUDs and city tax incentives in another. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Andy Litsky
Vice Chairman,
ANC-6D