

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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September 15, 2014

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The Honorable Vincent Gray  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 108  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City urges you to withdraw, or ask the Zoning Commission to table, the Planned Unit Development (“PUD”) application for Barry Farm. The Quadel Consulting report that you initiated to assess the New Communities Initiative has exposed many serious gaps in the program’s ability to meet its mission. This is particularly distressing – and requires immediate action – because the Barry Farm PUD is premised on the promises made to residents that the New Communities Initiative program cannot deliver. It is unconscionable to allow this development project to be approved knowing that Barry Farm residents will be displaced and there will be no alternative DC low-income housing for them.

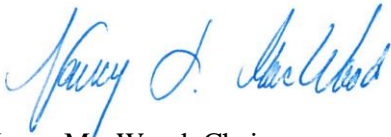
Furthermore, the goal of the New Communities Initiative to replace all the Barry Farm low income housing on a one-to-one basis cannot be fulfilled according to the report and Barry Farm residents cannot rely on returning to their homes if the development is built. If the report is correct, this will be an incredible rupture in the compact the city had with Barry Farm residents. The PUD states that all of these promises will be fulfilled and uses these promises as the basis for requesting significant zoning waivers and map amendments. The Zoning Commission should not continue its review of the PUD when the foundation for the application cannot be achieved.

The public record for the Barry Farm PUD has been closed although there is a limited hearing scheduled for September 18, 2014 to hear testimony from the parties on additional submissions from the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the private development team. The Committee of 100 asks that you write to the Zoning Commission before the hearing to either withdraw the application or request that it be tabled so that the Deputy Mayor and the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development will have time to re-establish the New Communities Initiative, address the deficiencies in the program, and renew discussions with Barry Farm residents about any proposed changes to the small area plan that all parties agreed to in 2006 and that formed the basis for the PUD.

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We know that you have a long history of representing the disadvantaged and protecting the dignity and value of all DC citizens. We call on you to stop this PUD proposal that will undermine those principles. Proceeding with this proposal in light of the information that has been revealed by the Quadel report would be unthinkable.

Sincerely,



Nancy MacWood, Chair

Cc: Phil Mendelson, Chairman, DC Council  
Muriel Bowser, DC Councilmember  
Detrice Belt  
Mary Cuthbert, Chair ANC 8C