



**Re: Application for Authorization to Proceed  
Proposed Stealth Tower Telecommunications Project Haymaker – “DCYH060”  
1 Safari Place  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
39° 19’ 29.909” North, -76° 38’ 51.709” West  
AEC Project No. HM-18-006**

To the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation:

On February 22, 2019, we received notification of the proposal submitted to the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) regarding the application for the authorization to proceed on a stealth tower telecommunications project to be placed at 1 Safari Place inside the Maryland Zoo in Druid Hill Park. As a community organization associated with neighborhoods that border Druid Hill Park and that would be directly impacted by this project, we are writing this letter to share our concerns.

Before going further, we would like to state our appreciation of the city’s dedication to wise spending as evidenced in the proposal. As taxpayers, we value the conscientious and discerning use of the tax monies that we pay. And we acknowledge the value of creating a tower that the city does not have to lease in order to save taxpayer money. Furthermore, we value the service of the zoo and the safety of its employees.

However, while we appreciate the city government’s motivations, we believe that the chosen site represents a disservice to both the local neighborhoods and the city at large. To state it clearly, we oppose the proposed project based on its location in Druid Hill Park. A one-hundred-eighty-foot tower has no place in an urban park, particularly one of the oldest landscaped public parks in the nation.

In his inaugural speech for Druid Hill Park in the near vicinity of the location of the proposed tower, Mayor Thomas Swann spoke of the future when he said, “How proudly, then, will our descendants – standing upon this spot, and looking out upon the restless tide beneath them – secure from the intrusions and bustle of a crowded city, congratulate themselves upon the provident foresight which has secured for their enjoyment this secluded retreat – these magnificent forests – these broad and beautiful fields – this type of nature in its undisturbed simplicity and grandeur.” We support the original and intended vision for the park presented by Mayor Swann, one of “nature in its undisturbed simplicity and grandeur.”

We recognize that the CHAP committee does not have the power in this circumstance to prevent the proposal from moving further. However, we also recognize the committee’s ability to make recommendations to the Mayor’s office regarding the proposal. As such, we would like to submit the following for consideration.

February 27, 2019



In the case that, in spite of the opposition of the local community, this proposal moves forward, we believe that the following steps should be taken to mitigate the impacts to Druid Hill Park and the local community:

- The tower should be designed in an aesthetically-appealing manner that makes it an emblematic feature of the park. To facilitate this, there should be a formal RFP and public review process through the Public Art Commission or a similar body that includes citizen review.
- The siting of the tower should be reconsidered with respect to the park's historic designs and its current master plan. The tower should be sited so as to minimize historic viewsheds of structures, such as the Mansion House.
- The city should enter into an MOU with the Parks & People Foundation and the Department of Recreation & Parks to establish a fund for investment in Druid Hill Park. This fund should be housed within Parks & People and utilized at the discretion of a group of advisors from Rec & Parks, Parks & People, and the neighboring communities.
- The aforementioned MOU should specify that the fund is to receive the first 5 years of savings to the city as a result of the construction of the tower. Based on the documentation submitted to CHAP, this should equal approximately \$1.6 million total.
- The aforementioned MOU should specify that for each year after the initial five years of the tower coming online, the fund should receive 20% per annum of all proceeds that come from any leasing of the tower to non-municipal entities.

We value Druid Hill Park. It serves as a place of solace, a spiritual retreat, a summer outing, a playground, a gathering place, and much more. We ask the city to fulfill its vision in the creation of the park, that it might continue to serve as a “secluded retreat . . . of nature in its undisturbed simplicity and grandeur.”

Sincerely,

Adeline Hutchinson  
President, GMCC

This letter was approved as a motion by the Executive Board of GMCC on February 27, 2019

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