



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Charles Allen
Councilmember - Ward 6

April 29, 2016

Committee Member
Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Education
Transportation and the Environment

Stephanie Skroch
Contracting Officer
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

Re: Letter of Opposition to RFP-200-1270-ES Submission by GEO Reentry, Inc. (475 School St, SW)

Dear Ms. Skroch:

I am in receipt of a letter dated March 8, 2016 from representatives of GEO Reentry, Inc. regarding their proposal submission to the Federal Bureau of Prisons for RFP-200-1270-ES for the property located at 475 School Street, SW. This property is located in Ward 6, which I represent at the Council of the District of Columbia. Offender reentry services are of critical importance and bringing returning citizens back to their original communities is a helpful first step toward success. However, we must work to strike the right balance between supporting these individuals and finding the appropriate location for these services. The property at 475 School Street, SW is not the right site.

This proposal is incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood, and its immediate proximity to Washington Global Public Charter School, a middle school that serves over 100 children in grades 6 -8, would be particularly inconsistent with the needs of that location. Further, upon initial review, it remains unclear whether this use is allowed under current DC Zoning Regulations. Relatedly, the lack of easily accessible support resources such as employment, housing, and substance abuse treatment, makes this site inappropriate for this use.

I have discussed this proposal with the Metropolitan Police Department Commander for this area and share his serious concerns about the potential public safety impact of placing 300 or more returning citizens at this site. I am also concerned that the scale of this facility – a large institutional-style site rather than multiple smaller residential-style settings – compromises the quality of reentry experience this site would offer and places an undue burden on the surrounding neighborhood. Again, I reiterate my opposition to this proposal and stand ready to work with you to identify an alternative and more appropriate site.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Charles Allen
Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 6

cc: Mayor Muriel Bowser
City Administrator Rashad Young
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Kevin Donohue
Chief Cathy Lanier, Metropolitan Police Department
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Marjorie Lightman, ANC6D
Steve Moore, Southwest Business Improvement District