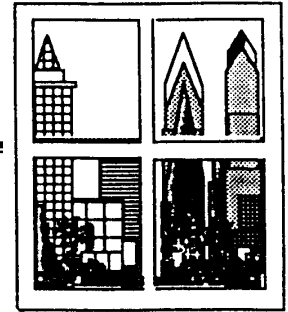


South of South Neighborhood Association
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S O S N A

June 7, 2004

The Hon. Anna C. Verna
President, City Council
Room 494, City Hall
Philadelphia PA 19107

Re: **Public Hearings, Bill #040500**

Dear Mrs. Verna:

The South of South Neighborhood Association held a special service area briefing the evening of Wednesday, June 2 for the purpose of receiving community comments on the three projects in our service area contained in Bill # 040500, scheduled for public hearing June 9. The community was notified via the usual methods of leafleting by our network of block representatives, supplemented by postings on our web site and e-mail to those area residents who have signed up to receive alert mailings. A meeting notice was also sent to all Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee block captains in our service area.

A total of 106 individuals signed in, including presenters, City officials, and the press. A total of 59 individuals present cast ballots. Of those ballots, 38 were from individuals reporting an address in our service area. The vote tallies are shown below:

Project	In Favor	Opposed	Not Voting
CAVA Marble expansion	24	6	8
Fitzwater2000 Garden	29	2	7
Greater St. Matthew Housing	25	10	3

In the case of CAVA Marble, it should be noted that it was agreed at the June 2 meeting that a second community meeting should be held to explore a number of issues in debate. SOSNA will work with Kathleen Murray to schedule such a meeting in July. It is possible that some of the votes in each category may have been with the expectation that a second meeting would give the community an additional chance to make a more informed decision. It is also possible that some near neighbors present did not vote at all, believing the next meeting would be the critical meeting.

Although SOSNA board members made an effort to leaflet the blocks adjacent to the CAVA project most intensively because there has been no prior public hearing on this topic, only four of CAVA's immediate neighbors submitted ballots, with two voting in favor, one opposing, and one not voting.

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An additional 21 ballots were received from individuals reporting addresses outside the SOSNA service area or not reporting any address. Three ballots are from individuals reporting addresses outside Philadelphia. The distribution for these ballots, including the three nonresidents, is as follows:

Project	In Favor	Opposed	Not Voting
CAVA Marble expansion	3	6	12
Fitzwater2000 Garden	10	4	7
Greater St. Matthew Housing	20	0	1

Copies of the ballots will be made available to your office upon request.

Those in attendance at the meeting were encouraged to write any comments on the back of their ballots. Only three of the residents in our area included comments, which I have reproduced below (one resident commented on two issues):

- *Fitz2000 is too large a cost for the benefit of too few. If the goal is "green space," a study of various potential sites should be made -- a mid-block site is surely not optimal.*
- *CAVA: light industrial of any type should not expand into lots that could be continued as single family or similar to what St. Matthew CDC can do. That would be better!*
- *2000garden. Drexler bought a property let them build but the garden will still be fine.*
- *I oppose condemnation process being used by a group to build market-rate homes.*

Finally, one neighborhood resident in attendance, Lisa Parsley, did not turn in a ballot but sent lengthy comments via e-mail the next day. Since she included Kathleen Murray in the distribution list of that e-mail, I am not enclosing an additional copy of her remarks.

We hope that you and your colleagues on City Council will take this meeting report and balloting results into consideration as well as any testimony at the June 9 public hearing.

Sincerely,

Laura Blanchard
Interim Chair