

Statement on the RFK Campus Redevelopment First Vote

Today, upon first reading, I voted no on the Robert F. Kennedy Campus Redevelopment Act of 2025.

I believe deeply in the potential of the RFK site. It can and should be a place where the District builds something great, something that delivers new housing, creates jobs, protects the environment, enhances public access to the Anacostia River, and benefits residents citywide.

However, despite significant improvements made in recent weeks, and the sincere efforts of many involved, I could not support the deal as presented. Unfortunately, even quite measured, reasonable proposals for strengthening the enforcement of the proposed timetable for the mixed-use development, which is key to delivering economic benefit to the District, were ultimately rebuffed by the Commanders. We need greater accountability to ensure the sites are promptly developed. Otherwise, we risk many of the economic benefits offered by the project being a mirage. I was heartened that a number of colleagues echoed these concerns and want to be hopeful that the issues will be addressed between first and second vote.

In the meantime, I want to thank the more than 400 residents who provided public testimony, and the perhaps thousands who reached out by email. Your voices shaped this process. I also want to recognize the Chairman and my colleagues who worked to secure improvements and bring transparency to the negotiations.

Progress was made.

But as my “no” vote indicates, I still think the deal can and should be better.