



**ORGANIZING FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
IN IVY CITY, BRENTWOOD  
& THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON, DC**

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# Empower DC

**EST. 2003**

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

**CITY-WIDE**

**CONFIDENT SELF-ADVOCACY**

**COLLECTIVE POWER**

**SYSTEMIC CHANGE**





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# OUR WORK

## EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

- PUBLIC & AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- PREVENTING DISPLACEMENT
- COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
- COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT
- CRUMMELL SCHOOL

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

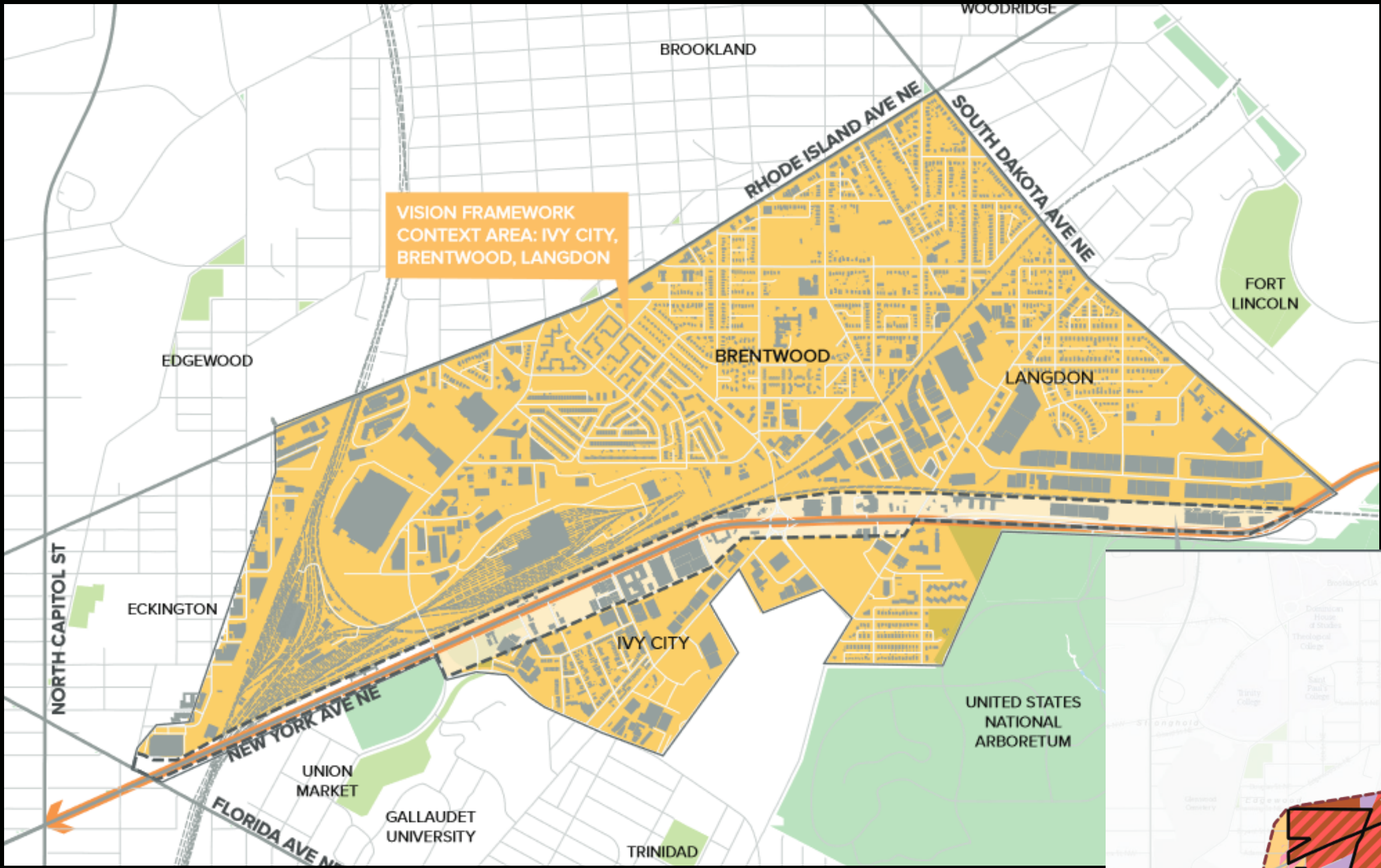
- BRENTWOOD & IVY CITY
- DC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION
- INDUSTRIAL LAND

## RACIAL EQUITY

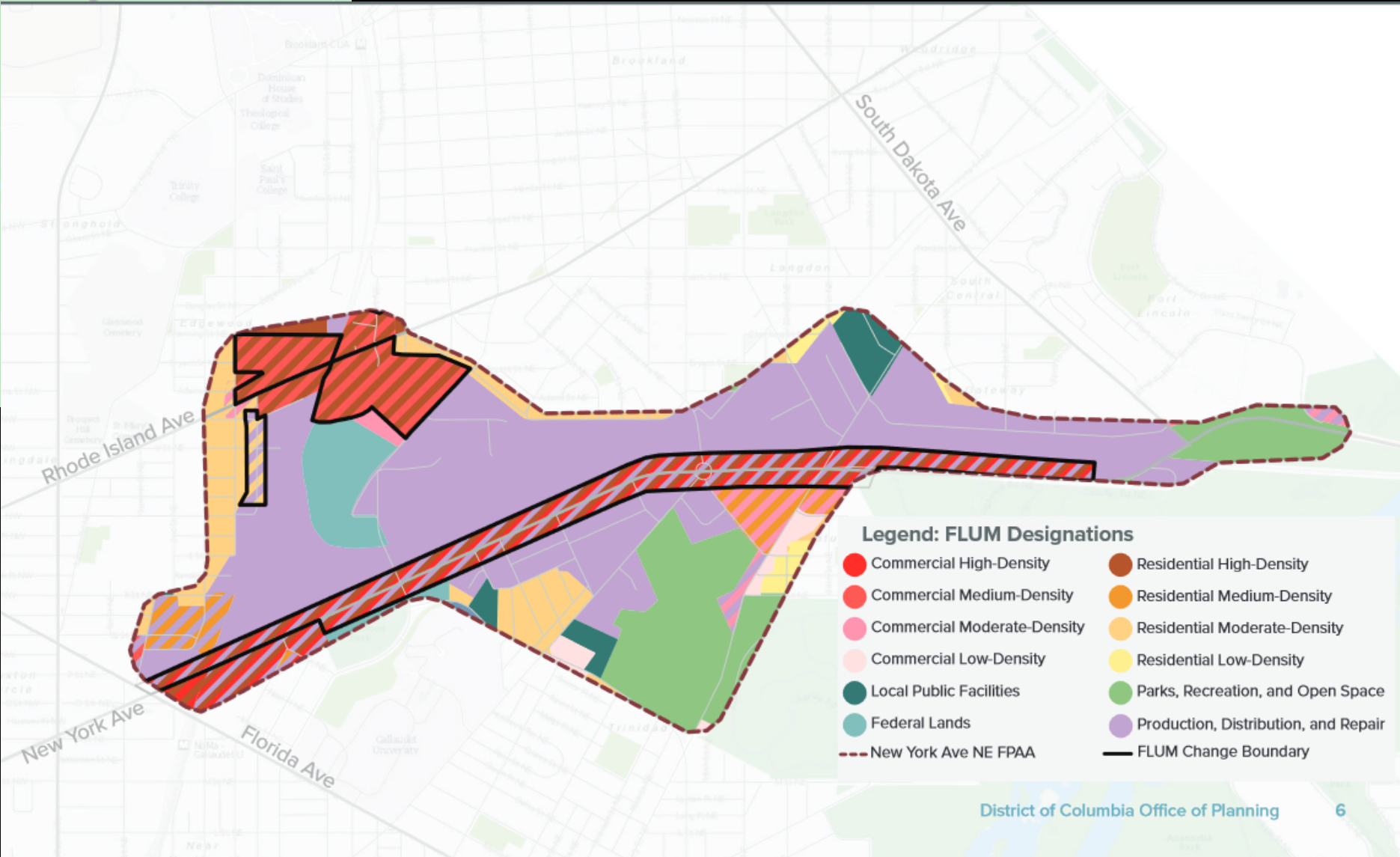
- REACH ACT IMPLEMENTATION
- RACIAL EQUITY IN PLANNING & ZONING







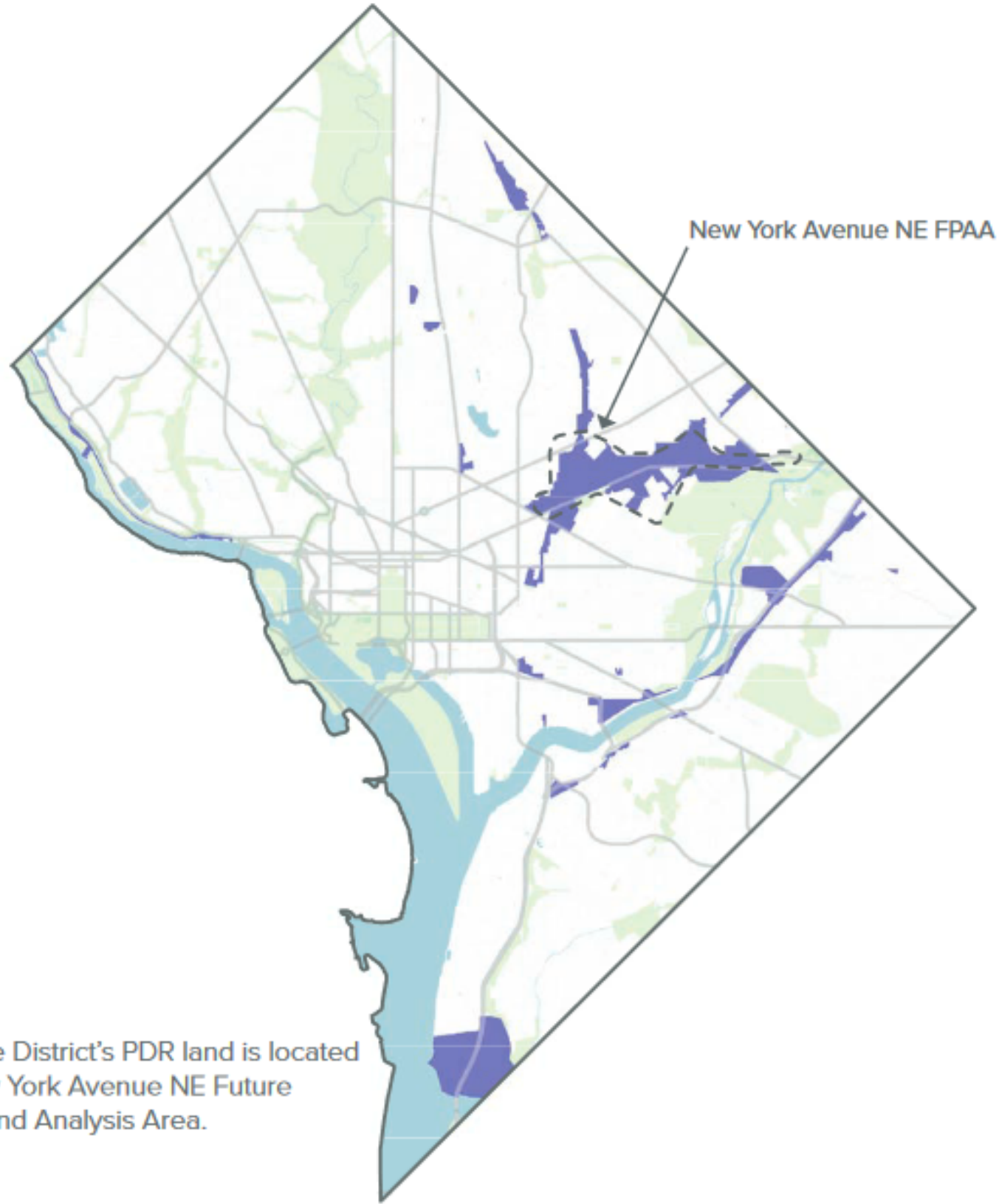
BRENTWOOD & IVY CITY ARE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES ALONG NY AVE IN WARD 5, NORTHEAST DC, THAT ARE SURROUNDED BY INDUSTRIAL LANDS



Source: DC Office of Planning, New York Avenue NE Framework, Mach 2022

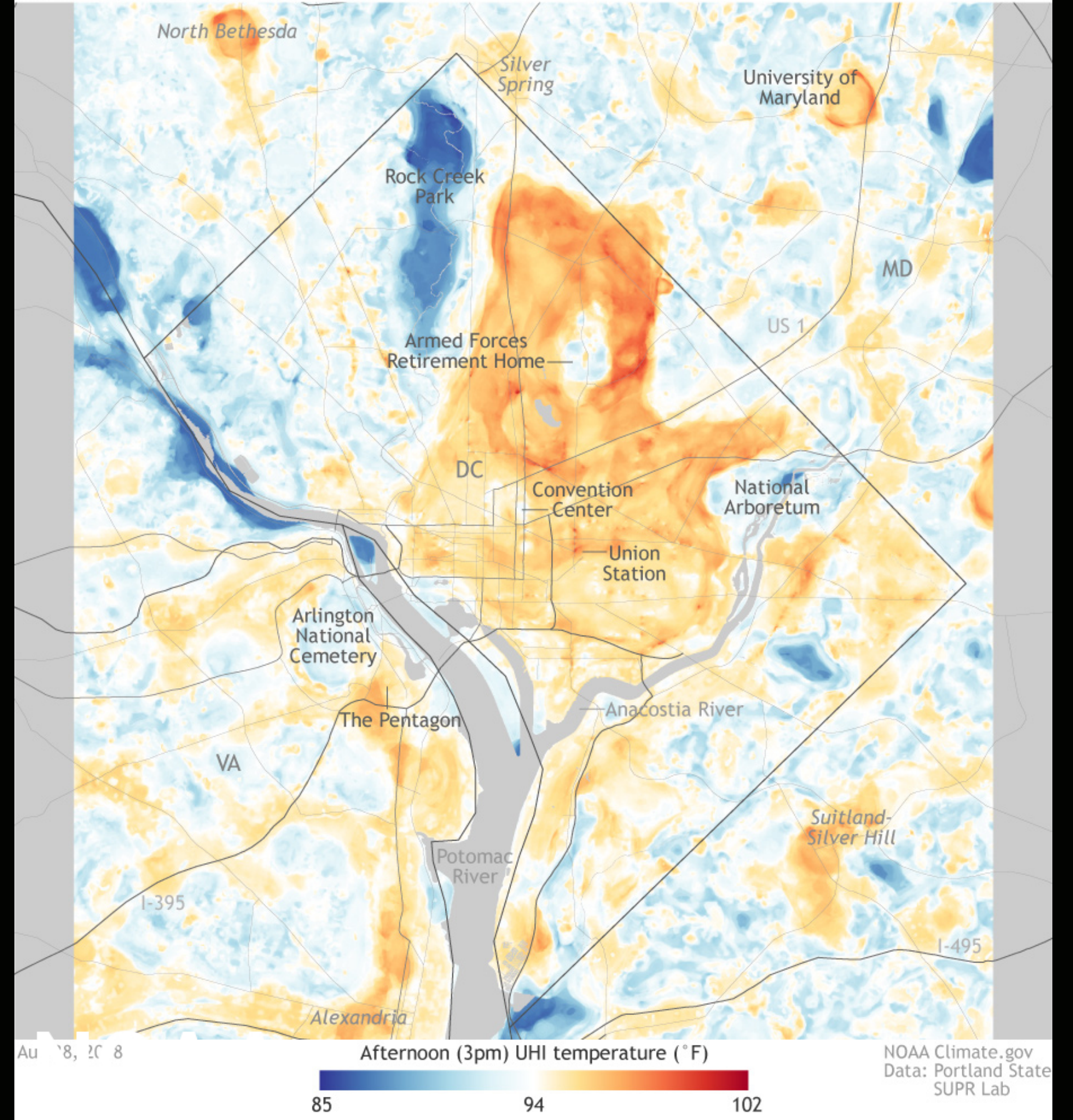


### Areas Zoned for Production, Distribution, and Repair



Most of the District's PDR land is located in the New York Avenue NE Future Planning and Analysis Area.

### Washington, DC, urban heat island effect



(Image: In Washington, D.C., the warmest and coolest places differed by 16.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Urban heat islands are visible in red.) In Washington, D.C., the warmest and coolest places differed by 16.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Urban heat islands are visible in red. (NOAA, Portland State University, Science Museum of Virginia)

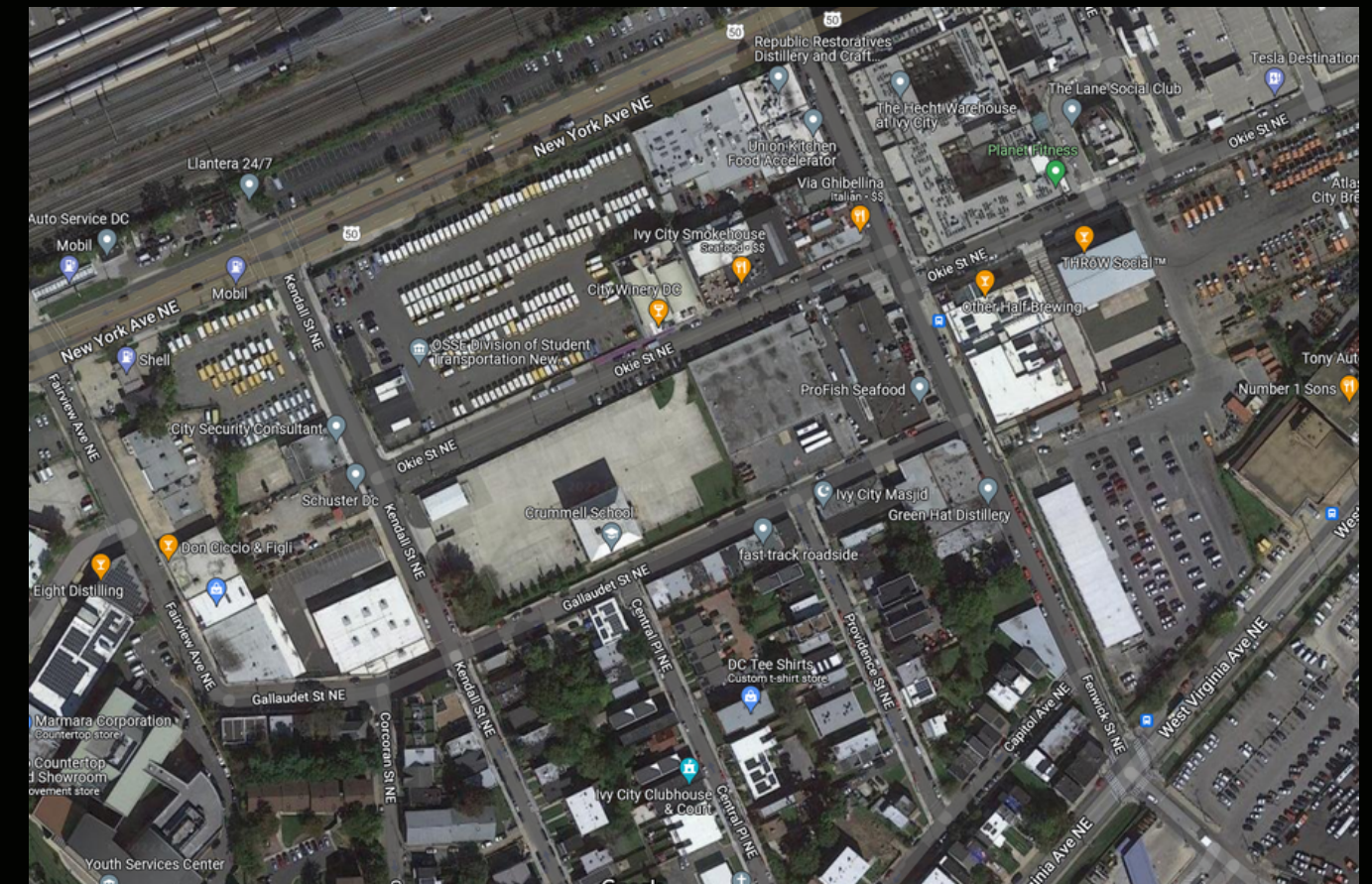


# Ivy City

Historic Black community founded 1872,  
longstanding EJ battles

## Key Issues:

- Poor Air Quality, Respiratory illness
- Low tree cover, surface parking, heat island effect
- lack of public green and play space
- rapid gentrification and displacement
- incompatible industrial uses





ALEXANDER CRUMMELL SCHOOL  
BUILT 1911  
THE HEART OF IVY CITY

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CLOSED 1975  
LANDMARKED 2002







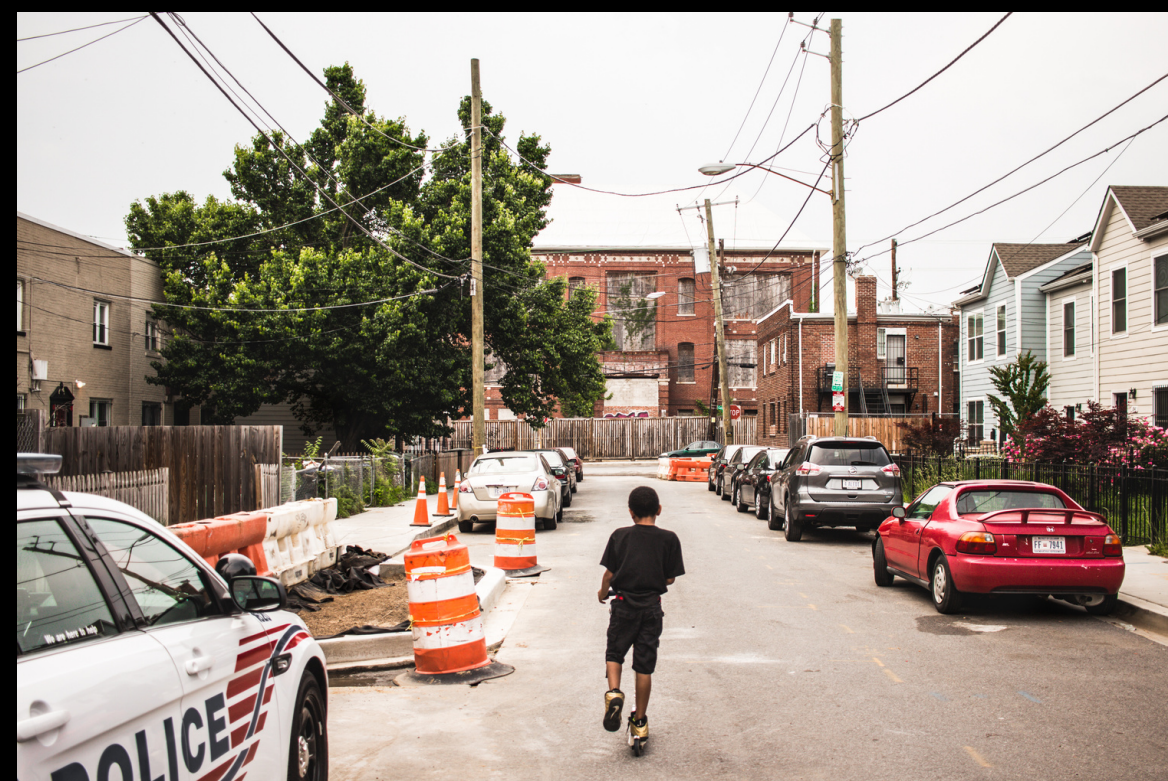
- IVY CITY'S ONLY COMMUNITY SPACE
- 2 ACRE SITE FENCED OFF, NO PLACE FOR KIDS TO PLAY
- EXTREMELY HOT - NO TREE COVER
- 20 YR CAMPAIGN TO MAKE IT A COMMUNITY CENTER AND PARK

2013: SUED TO STOP USE AS BUS TERMINAL

2020: WON SMALL PLAYGROUND, BBALL COURTS

2021: WON \$20MILL IN CITY BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

2022: WON COMMUNITY USE FOR FULL 2 ACRES





# Ivy City - Chemical Facility

1950 Capitol Ave, NE

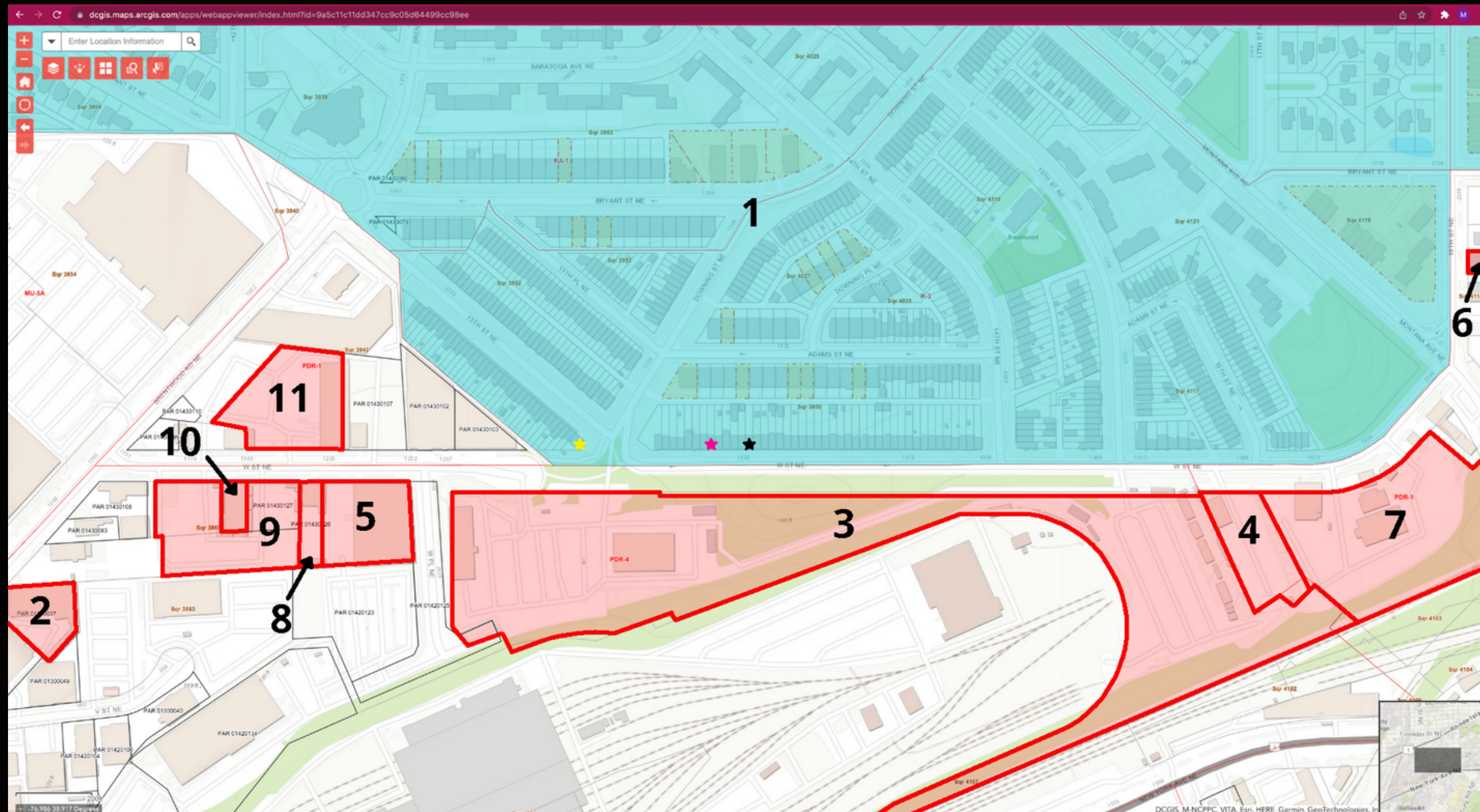
- National Engineering Products
- Manufactures industrial adhesive used by Navy, uses formaldehyde
- Strong chemical odor
- Neighbors report loss of taste, smell
- DOEE "unaware" of facility, in Ivy city since 1970's





# Brentwood

Predominately Black residential community overwhelmed by industrial pollution sources along W St, NE and surrounding areas:



- # 11 - Federal IPC Trash Transfer Company
- # 9 - Fort Meyer Construction Asphalt Plant
- # 3 - DC Government Vehicle maintenance
- # 4 - DC Paving
- # 7 - Proposed School bus terminal





and understand something.



# Current Impacts

Residents suffer from

- Respiratory illness
- Cancers
- Residents can't open windows
- Odor from the trash transfer and asphalt plant
- High levels of dust
- Dangerous truck traffic on residential streets
- Noise pollution



**OF 50 HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED, 63% said they believe that people in their household have respiratory or other illnesses due to the pollution in the community.**



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# Proposed Bus Terminal

- 250 gasoline buses + fueling station
- Each bus has 2 staff - additional 400-500 cars
- Buses operate between 4 am-7 pm, 5 days a week

City government did not:

- Conduct a proper environmental impact study required by law
- Conduct property ANC notice and engagement required by law
- Conduct proper transportation study
- Consider cumulative impact of multiple pollution sources in the community





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# Ongoing & Upcoming Actions

## BRENTWOOD:

- bus terminal lawsuit appeal
- Title 6 complaint
- Health impact assessment
- purple air monitors & black carbon monitor
- challenge fuel station permit (bus terminal)
- Environmental Justice Action Plan

## IVY CITY:

- Crummell School Planning (green space)
- Ivy City Small Area Plan
- Campaign to close chemical facility

## BOTH COMMUNITIES:

- New York Avenue Framework Study
- DC Industrial Land Use Study

## CITY-WIDE

- Racial Equity analysis in Zoning (Zoning Commission, Office of Attorney General)
- Citywide Racial Equity Action Plan (ORE)



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