GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZONING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:

MASJID MUHAMMAD, INC. - MAP : Case No. AMENDMENT @ SQUARE 5790, LOTS: 19-03

32-35, 39, 40, 47, 818, & 819:

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> Monday, July 15, 2019

Hearing Room 220 South 441 4th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

The Public Hearing of Case No. 19-03 by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Jerrily R. Kress Memorial Hearing Room at 441 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001, Anthony J. Hood, Chairman, presiding.

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

ANTHONY J. HOOD, Chairperson

MICHAEL G. TURNBULL, FAIA, Commissioner

(AOC)

PETER G. MAY, Commissioner (NPS)

PETER SHAPIRO, Commissioner

OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

SHARON S. SCHELLIN, Secretary

OFFICE OF PLANNING STAFF PRESENT:

NEAL R. GROSS
COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

JENNIFER STEINGASSER, Deputy Director,
Development Review & Historic
Preservation
MAXINE BROWN-ROBERTS

D.C. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT:

MAXIMILIAN TONDRO, ESQ.

The transcript constitutes the minutes from the Public Hearing held on July 15, 2019.

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Preliminary Matters
Applicant's Case
Report of the Office of Planning
Report of other Government Agencies
Report of ANC
Organizations and Persons in Support
Organizations and Persons in Opposition
Rebuttal and Closing by the Applicant 4
Adjourned

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1 2 (6:50 p.m.)3 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, good evening ladies and This is a public hearing of the Zoning Commission gentlemen. for the District of Columbia. Today's date is July the 15th. 5 My name is Anthony Hood. Joining me, Vice Chair -- I'm 6 7 sorry, joining me are Commissioner Shapiro, Commissioner May, and Commissioner Turnbull. 8 9 We're also joined by the Office of Zoning staff, 10 Ms. Sharon Schellin, Office of Attorney General, Mr. Tondro, 11 Office of Planning, Ms. Steingasser and Ms. Brown-Roberts. 12 Give me one second. Okay, this hearing is being 13 recorded by a Court Reporter. It is also webcast live. Accordingly, we must ask you to refrain from any disruptive noise or actions in the hearing room, including the display 15 of any signs or objects. 16 17 The hearing will be conducted in provisions of 11 18 DCMR Chapter 4 as follows, Preliminary matters, Applicant's case, Report of the Office of Planning, Report of Government 19 Agencies, Report of the ANC, Organizations and Persons in 2.0 21 Support, Organizations and Persons in Opposition, Rebuttal, and Closing by the Applicant. 22 23 I just had a meeting. I'm just trying to get myself together, so just bear with me. I'm going to ask just 24

give me five minutes, and I'll be back shortly.

1	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the
2	record at 6:53 p.m. and resumed at 6:55 p.m.)
3	CHAIRMAN HOOD: All right, got myself together
4	here. The following time constraints will be maintained in
5	this meeting, the Applicant has up to 60 minutes,
6	organizations five minutes, individuals three minutes.
7	Please turn off all electronic devices at this
8	time so as not to disrupt these proceedings.
9	Would all the individuals wishing to testify,
10	please rise and take the oath? Ms. Schellin would you please
11	administer the oath?
12	MS. SCHELLIN: Yes.
13	(WITNESSES SWORN)
14	MS. SCHELLIN: Thank you.
15	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. At this time the Commission
16	will consider any preliminary matters. Does the staff have
17	any preliminary matters?
18	MS. SCHELLIN: Just one. The Applicant has
19	proffered Shane Dettman, who's previously been accepted by
20	the Commission as an expert witness in urban planning, ask
21	the Commission to consider accepting him in this case as an
22	expert.
23	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay.
24	COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: No objections.
25	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Any objections? No objections.

1 Okay, anything else? 2 MS. SCHELLIN: And nothing else unless the 3 Applicant has something. MR. GLASGOW: Mr. Chairman, we did submit to staff 4 a Letter of Authorization for Holland Knight to proceed on 5 behalf of The Clara, LLC. And then also a Letter from The 6 7 Clara LLC that shows the percentage interest owned. And that Masjid Muhammad owns, Board of Directors, owns 51 percent of the LLC, 49 percent is owned by another entity. 9 10 CHAIRMAN HOOD: That was presented, I believe this 11 evening. All right, anything else? We don't have anything else, Mr. 12 MR. GLASGOW: We are prepared to proceed in whatever form the 13 Commission is ready to. We're ready to stand on the record. We're ready to have testimony. It's at the discretion of the 15 Commission. 16 17 CHAIRMAN HOOD: So I notice -- let me back up. Let me ask this. Is there anyone here who is in opposition 18 to this amendment? 19 2.0 Okay, so we have, I think I saw, I did see one 21 letter in opposition. Okay. Is there anyone else who is in opposition to this case? 22 23 So Mr. Glasgow, did you all see the letter was in opposition? If you could respond to that, that would be very 24 25 helpful

1 MR. GLASGOW: Fine, we will respond to 2 letter. We can do that through, I think two of our 3 witnesses. Omar, you want to --4 CHAIRMAN HOOD: So here's what we'll do. We'll 5 do a brief presentation, very brief --6 MR. GLASGOW: Fine. -- because I think the record 7 CHAIRMAN HOOD: speaks for itself. 8 Right. 9 MR. GLASGOW: CHAIRMAN HOOD: It looks like we have overwhelming 10 11 We may have some questions and comments from up 12 here. Fine. 13 MR. GLASGOW: But I think if you could do a 14 CHAIRMAN HOOD: brief analysis. First let thank everybody for letting me get 15 myself together. I'm trying to rush it. 16 It's too many things at one time and I see now I can't, I'm not Superman. 17 I might look like one, but I'm not him. 18 19 (Laughter.) 2.0 So I appreciate your indulgences CHAIRMAN HOOD: 21 as I tried to get through that. But let me say this. If you can do a brief presentation. 22 And then after that if you could just hit those highlights. And when I say brief, no 23 more than 10 minutes. 24 25 MR. GLASGOW: That's fine.

1 CHAIRMAN HOOD: And then we'll ask our questions 2 up here. That's fine. 3 MR. GLASGOW: 4 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Fine, thank you. 5 MR. GLASGOW: 6 All right. Good evening Members of MR. GLASGOW: 7 the Commission. For the record, my name is Norman M. Glasgow, Jr. of the law firm of Holland & Knight, on behalf Here with me this evening is Mr. Omar of the Applicant. 10 Karim of Banneker Partners. They're representatives of the 11 And Mr. Shane Dettman, who's an expert property owners. 12 witness. As is set forth in the Applicant's statement, the 13 Office of Planning report, this is amendment map application that is fully supported by the Comprehensive 15 And Mr. Dettman will get into that very briefly. 16 17 With respect to the map amendment from MU-4 to MU-5A, it would allow increased height from 50 to 70 feet, 18 with inclusionary zoning. And an FAR of 3.0 to 4.2 FAR with 19 2.0 T7. 21 And then I'd like, Mr. Karim, would you identify yourself for the record, and proceed with your testimony? 22 And then we'll have the Imam ready to speak. 23 24 MR. KARIM: Thank you, Chair. Good evening 25 Commissioners. My name is Omar Karim. I'm with Banneker

Ventures. I'm the development partner with Masjid Muhammad. And since November 2018, we have undergone significant community engagement with residents around the 2300 block of Martin Luther King, the site of our, where we're here to propose a map amendment. Next slide.

We've knocked on doors of over 700 residents within ANC 8A06. Over 50 home owners and businesses around the site have put signs around their yards, and we've obtained signatures to close to 400 residents in support of the map amendment.

We've met with all of the adjacent owners, received letters of support from 100 percent of the adjacent property owners. Held multiple meetings including meeting and presenting in front of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A, as well as Executive Committee, as well as other neighborhood and civic associations.

We've conducted outreach to the local Councilman,
Trayon White. Conducted outreach to several other schools
around the community. And met with the Office of Planning.
And several months ago we received the unanimous support of
ANC 8A for the map amendment application.

Now I want to turn it over to the Imam of Masjid Muhammad who'll give some brief remarks.

MR. SHAREEF: Good evening, Members of the Commission. I am Imam Talib Shareef. I spent 30 years in

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the United States Air Force. My history with this community goes back 40 years. I am the current president and religious leader of Masjid Muhammad.

I'm the eighth one. There have been leaders in this 83 year history, and its succession. The seventh one, Imam Yusuf Saleem is right there. He's been the longest serving Imam. He and I are the only ones living now. He's 70. There was only eight in the 83 year history.

The community has gone from circles of self and nationalism, to broader circles of oneness and humanity. It was a natural part of this transition. And when we look at this history, this property in MLK, we owned that for about five decades. In fact, I used to live in the Southeast, I'd say 40 something years ago. And I started getting my Imam's training at that location there.

We've always wanted to keep that as a place for service in the community. It's been through several different things. Bakeries, service centers, fish house. We have a museum there. We had a school there called The Clara.

All of our schools, the names were changed in the mid-70s to Clara Muhammad, to pay tribute to Clara Muhammad of the 30s, who started the first pretty much private school.

And when we look at that property, we're finding out now that it was owned by the Beall family, who owned also

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-- and you know, in DC we know Yarrow Mamout. The individual that was enslaved in 1752, brought here in the DC area. So that building has that kind of value.

I'm saying that to say, that when we put the building up, that name is going to be associated with the history. That name and Clara because -- in fact on the building right now is The Clara. The Clara, that's been on the building for some time because that's where we had our school there. And that's why it's called The Clara Project, to pay tribute to that part of the history.

And then also we have now, in the last ten years, we moved the school. And we put a museum there. Those three things though we're going to try to keep in this project. And also this is a project we're trying to give back to the community. You saw the kind of package we put together to try to give to the community.

We own the project. Masjid Muhammad, again through our CEC, and again 51 percent of that shows that that's where our interest is maintained. So we released that. We fought hard to keep the project.

We had several big money, developers trying to purchase from us. We were struggling to keep it, to make sure it stays within the community. It produces something that gives back to the community as well.

We have members in this community that go back --

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that are still living now, that's back in the 40s. That's still with this community. We have several here now that's some the 60s, some from the 70s right here now. You will find the majority are still here when they transitioned from the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s.

And again, I'm one of those. I came in the mid70s. I'm here now. I ended up being the leader, and then
to be on his shoulders, it's an honor to be here. And to be
doing a project like this in Southeast. Thank you.

MR. GLASGOW: Mr. Dettman, would you please identify yourself and proceed with your testimony?

MR. DETTMAN: Good evening Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. Shane Dettman, Director of Planning Services with Holland & Knight. I'll quickly take the Commission through an analysis of how the proposed map amendment is not inconsistent with Comprehensive Plan.

You see here a map with the subject properties identified in that red hatch. The current zoning is MU-4. And here's some information on the MU-4 zone. It's only shown to you this evening just to show that under the, as under the future land use map descriptions the MU-4 zone is identified and described as a low-density commercial zone.

And the MU-4 zone under Z.R. 16 is described as permitting moderate-density, mixed-use development. And what I'll show in a moment is the current zoning as described in

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the zoning regulations and the future land use map is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

And so we've submitted this application in accordance with the standard of review to show that the proposed map amendment is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, as well as other adopted public policies and enacted programs of the district.

One of the adopted public policies is that there is a small area plan that pertains to the subject properties. It was adopted in June 2006, so actually the recommendations of the Anacostia transit area, small area plan have been incorporated into the current Comprehensive Plan that we're looking at today.

But I wanted to put together, put in front of you the core principles and guidelines of the small area plan, because you can see what was envisioned for this area in terms of pedestrian oriented development.

Taking advantage of the access to transit. It's in very close proximity to the Anacostia metro rail, strengthening the Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. It's also a Great Streets Corridor. And so the small area plan looks to improve the corridor, take advantage of access to transit, and maximize development opportunity.

This is just an excerpt from the map on the small area plan showing that there are two nodes of development

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activity. Outlined in red there are the subject properties. And so we're really in between two nodes of activities along the MLK corridor.

And I mentioned already that this that this is the Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue Southeast corridor is an identified Great Streets Corridor with a goal of to transform the corridor as well as South Capitol Street into a thriving and inviting neighborhood site.

I mentioned the small area plan recommendations have been incorporated into the current Comprehensive Plan that occurred in 2010 when the Council passed the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2010.

We see here some of the changes that were made to specific policies in terms of directing growth in the far Southeast, Southwest area element, which is where the project is located.

And just outlined, or highlighted there in red it refers to the Great Streets Corridor. And it specifically says that the corridor should be developed with medium to high-density mixed-uses. Again, right now the current MU-4 zoning is a low-density commercial zone.

Here's the changes that were made to the future land use map. On the left is the 2006 future land use map before the recommendations of the small area plan were incorporated. And here we see in red outline, the current

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Comprehensive Plan designation, which is mixed-use medium-density commercial, medium-density residential.

Mixed-use categories on the future land use map is a designation in and of itself. And specific to this corridor and this site, it's applied to commercial corridors or districts which may not contain substantial amounts of housing, but where more is desired.

And that the pattern is envisioned in such areas, typically one of pedestrian oriented streets with ground floor retail and offices and upper story housing. We think that the proposed zoning will fulfill that vision, those goals.

The generalized policy map identifies the site as a main street mixed-use corridor. Common features of that type of designation is pedestrian oriented development, traditional store fronts, upper story residential uses.

So here's what the proposed map would look like with the subject properties designated as MU-5. MU-5 consistent with the mixed-use medium-density commercial, medium residential.

MU-5 is identified as a medium-density commercial zone on the future land use map. And it's identified and described in ZR16 as permitting medium-density compact mixeduse development. So therein we're consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

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1 just a comparison of the existing and 2 proposed height and densities. Essentially the MU-5 gives a bump in FAR of about 1.0. 3 With IZ it's a bump of about 1.2. But the amount of commercial density that can be 5 provided remains the same. 6 And so you see, there's a slight emphasis on 7 residential development because it caps the residential, nonresidential at the same at what it is. 8 9 The proposed map amendment will favorable serve the public health and safety and welfare of the community. 10 11 It's going to help address the need for additional housing 12 the district. It's continued in going promote to 13 revitalization of the corridor. It's going to increase utilization of land. And it's going to improve connections to the metro rail. 15 And so with that, Mr. Chair, the proposed map 16 amendment is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan 17 18 based on the evidence that we've put into the record and our testimony this evening. 19 2.0 Mr. Chairman that concludes our MR. GLASGOW: 21 direct presentation. 22 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, thank you for your 23 presentation. Let's see if we have any questions or comments 24 Any questions or comments?

Okay.

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Let me just ask this, with this change in

zoning request what would be some of the -- I realize about all the stats and the numbers, but what will be some of the impacts? What are impacts that we may be looking at?

MR. DETTMAN: I think in terms of the technical specifications in zoning, there's an increase in height. There's an increase in density. And so with the increase in density you may see impacts to pedestrian traffic on the street, in terms of congestion and --

COMMISSIONER SHAPIRO: Mr. Karim, if you could turn off your mic. We're just getting some feedback, thank you very much.

MR. DETTMAN: -- traffic, but we think that in terms of impact we thought about that in terms of what zones should we pursue. What would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan land use designation of mixed-use medium-commercial, medium-residential? MU-5 really is just a single step up in zoning from the MU-4.

I think when we were first looking at this, we were looking at MU-7, which is much more commercial density. And consistent in height also, you get a bigger penthouse with MU-7 or MU-5B. And so we thought that looking at the surrounding context, and the types of impacts that may result as a result of a map amendment, we thought this minor increase of one step in the zone category into a medium-density commercial zone was appropriate.

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CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Only other comment I would have, Mr. Karim, I want to thank you and your team. It looks like you did a great job in outreach, a great job in support. I don't usually see this many people in support a lot of times in cases like this. So this shows me, and I'm looking at the submissions, of the community meetings that you've had, so you look like you did a great job on getting the word out now.

You're not going to get everybody to go along. It sounds like you have one or two people I believe in opposition at least from the -- but I just wanted to say that's it's a great job with the interaction with the community.

I do have one other question and then I'm going to leave it alone and move on. I always noticed that 8A, I don't see Mr. Prestwood if he's here, the Commissioner. They always have a CBA, which this is not necessarily pertaining to our jurisdiction, a CBA, but are you in agreeance to doing with them?

And I think they're seizing the moment, which I applaud them to do that. But for our sake, it's not really within our jurisdiction to make sure a CBA -- but you obviously have volunteered to do everything that they have put in their letter. Is that a correct statement?

MR. KARIM: Yes, sir.

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1	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, that's all I wanted to know.
2	All right is anyone here from ANC 8A? Were you going to cross
3	examine? Are you representing the ANC?
4	Okay, so we're going to do it like this. I'm
5	going to right now is the time for cross examination.
6	When we get to that point, then you can come up and speak
7	your piece, whether it's support or opposition, whatever the
8	case. I believe it's support from what I read in the record.
9	But they'll be a time for that. Okay.
LO	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Any other questions up here? Okay,
11	let's go to the Office of Planning and Ms. Brown-Roberts.
12	MS. BROWN-ROBERTS: Good evening Mr. Chairman and
13	Members of the Commission. Maxine Brown-Roberts for the
L4	record. I will stand on the record and say that we recommend
15	the approval of the petition for the map amendment from the
16	MU-4 zone to the $MU-5A$ zone, in that the recommendation is
L7	not inconsistent with the recommendations of the
18	Comprehensive Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
L9	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, thank you, Ms. Brown-
20	Roberts. Commissioners, any questions or comments?
21	Okay, does the Applicant have any cross questions?
22	MR. GLASGOW: No, sir.
23	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Let's go to other
24	government agencies. I did see a number of a second
25	a number of support letters. Let's see, did DDOT respond to?

Commissioner Shapiro, help me out. Where is DDOT's letter? Exhibit what, 21?

COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Letter in support.

CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, DDOT's letter, Exhibit 21, thank you. Is in support. Thank you, Mr. Turnbull.

Also I noticed a number of letters, there are no objections. I also noticed we have a letter of support for City Partners, Stan Jackson. Anacostia -- let me make sure, I'll get it right -- the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation support letter. Mr. Brewer, let me see, H Street Community Development Corporation. We have a number of letters in support.

We have a letter in support from the Nation's Mosque. Let's see this, ANC 8A has a letter of support. And Mr. Karim has mentioned that he supports the, everything that's in that letter. So he's making good efforts with the community. Fort Stanton Civic Association, am I leaving anything else out, any of these?

We have a number of support letters and obviously have a number of bodies, people who are down here, who are also in support. So that shows a great support for this effort. Now report of the ANC, there's a gentleman here, I'm not sure. I'm going to ask him to come forward, even though — do we have anyone who representing the ANC? And their letter, do we have anyone?

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21 1 (Off microphone comments.) 2 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Yes, but he's of the one 3 Commissioners, but did the Chairman -- okay, okay. Oh, you're letting me know Mr. Prestwood is out of town. 5 so I think I saw that on, somewhere I saw that. Okay, so Ms. 6 Muhammad did you want to say anything? I didn't see you 7 sitting back there. Did you want to come up and say anything 8 in support, or? Okay. Thank you. 9 Identify yourself, and you may begin. 10 MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes, sir. First I Excuse me. 11 would like to say good evening, Chair Hood and Commissioners. I am Commissioner Holly Muhammad a member of the ANC 8A, 12 currently serving single-member district 01. 13 14 My ANC has voted unanimously to support the map amendment requested by Masjid Muhammad for Zoning Case Number 15 I am here tonight to add further petition on behalf 16 of my single-member district. 17 18 19

The proposed map amendment from MU-4 zone to MU-5, which will allow for medium-density mixed-use development will help meet the district's goal of providing much needed affordable housing for our Ward 8 residents. And retail development that will push forward economic opportunity for our residents.

As a sitting commissioner over a single-member district that has more than 20 units that are rife with

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poorly maintained run down housing, I fully support the addition of new housing in the affordable realm that will help prevent the further displacement of African Americans from the District of Columbia, and specifically from Ward 8.

Mr. Karim's firm, Banneker Ventures, has set a precedent for others to follow in their efforts of community engagement. He has led this effort. But by not only attending our executive committee meeting, our monthly community meeting, held a standing room only community meeting at the site, went door to door to speak to the residents, and gave out his personal number to any and all who wanted to consult with him.

I have great respect for the concern and respect he has for our community. This development through the naming of it, The Clara, who was a wife of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, will help maintain our cultural heritage in Ward 8.

This proposed development is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and I respectfully petition the Commissioners tonight to approve this requested map amendment, Case Number 19-03.

Lastly, I would just like to say that I am a current member of the Nation of Islam. And to those who would seek to bring division in the Muslim community, we're not having it. We are one family and we're one nation under

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1	God. And that is how we are working in the community. Thank
2	you.
3	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, let's see if we have any
4	questions?
5	Thank you, Commissioner Muhammad, appreciate it.
6	MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes, sir.
7	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Does the Applicant have any cross,
8	any questions for the Commissioner?
9	MR. SHAREEF: No, sir.
10	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, thank you very much. We
11	appreciate it.
12	MS. MUHAMMAD: Thank you, sir.
13	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, let's go to any
14	organizations in let me just by a show of hands, all those
15	who are in support, just raise your hand.
16	(Laughter.)
17	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Is there anyone who would
18	like to testify? I'm sure, we don't need everybody, but if
19	there's anybody in your organizations or persons who are here
20	who would like to testify in support?
21	Okay, come on up, who's all, how many people we
22	have that are going to speak? Okay, so those three. Four,
23	okay we have four. Okay. So Mr. Glasgow, Mr. Karim, we can
24	make way. Anyone else is going to speak in support? Okay.
25	All right we'll start, well let's start today to my left,
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1 your right. You may begin. Turn you mic on and identify 2 yourself. 3 MR. BRADFORD: What the red button? 4 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Yes, good. Hi everybody, how you doing today? 5 MR. BRADFORD: 6 My name is Sanguan Bradford. And I come to testify today, 7 I come to talk about unity and righteousness. Me, I'm a Christian, you know, I ain't got nothing against Muslims, Jews, Buddha, you know. How anybody take their faith, that's how they take their faith. 10 11 But I just want to say I believe in righteousness. When I say I believe in righteousness I believe in giving 12 I believe in giving back to my community. 13 So anybody trying to give back to my community, I'm with it. You know, I'm not against nothing that's not going to hurt me. 15 And me growing up as a child, I've been through 16 I done seen my own daddy die right in front of me. 17 a lot. My momma get shot right in front of me. Ain't no, and I was 18 turned out into the streets. You know the reason why I was 19 2.0 turned out into the streets because lack of support, and lack of quidance. 21 22 like if I had the opportunity that You know, 23 people was going to reach out to me, you know, and like put things in the community to help me get a job, I would have 24

never have turned to the streets at an early age, you know.

And I heard about the movement that the Muslim brothers and sisters were doing. And I agree on it because it's righteousness. You know, and it's unity. People coming together and I believe --

CHAIRMAN HOOD: Excuse me, can you turn your mic off, we're getting feedback.

MR. BRADFORD: And I believe living in the United States, I mean it tell you, United States, you all should be united as one. You know, I believe in one. Unity is powerful, you know, everybody coming together is powerful.

Everybody getting together, you know, I believe it shouldn't be no violence. It shouldn't be a problem, you know, if this person is Muslim, this person is Christian, this person is Jew. We all get together and come as one.

And we got a great mind, everybody come together is more stronger and more powerful, you know, just to give back. You know, like in life a lot of people fail to understand it's about understanding. You know, like about understanding a person. Now I understand okay this is the reason why you chose this route. This is the reason why you chose this route.

And you know, and the Bible it tell you like treat thy neighbor as you treat thyself, you know. I just believe in righteousness, you know. And that's all I got to say though, sir.

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1	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Thank you, next.
2	MR. MUHAMMAD: Good evening. My name is Amir
3	Muhammad. I am the CEO, the President of America's Islamic
4	Heritage Museum, which is currently housed in the building,
5	The Clara. We've been there for the last ten years.
6	We provide the history, culture, engagement. We
7	serve the community. We have the school program for the
8	youth. We feed the community once a month with food
9	distribution. We're in total engagement with the community
10	and we preserve and tell the Islamic story. We show the
11	diversity of America's inclusiveness.
12	I'm in total support for this project. We've been
13	at that building for ten years. And I managed the building
14	for Masjid Muhammad as the treasurer for 12 years. And so
15	within the past 22 years I've been part of this building in
16	some aspect. And I highly support, highly recommend your
17	approval of this project and this effort. And you have my
18	letter that I submitted. Thank you.
19	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Thank you, next.
20	MS. JONES: Good evening, Chairman Anthony
21	Muhammad, I mean
22	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Anthony Muhammad and I look alike.
23	(Laughter.)
24	CHAIRMAN HOOD: He'll probably say, he'd probably
25	say, he dress better. He'd say he dress better and look

better than me.

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MS. JONES: I know he does, he does. You know it. Sorry about that. Thank you for allowing us to speak. I'm Barbara Jones. I'm the President of Fort Stanton Civic Association. We are honored and pleased to write this letter of support and petition of Masjid Muhammad Incorporated in connection with this application for the zoning map amendment in Square 5790.

As the owner of several properties within Square 5790 along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, has been a cornerstone in the Anacostia community for five decades. Serving in the community through various community serving uses, including operating Shabazz Bakery, Clara Muhammad School, helping to open and providing discounted rent for Americans, Islamic Heritage Museum, and supporting free food programs — that's wonderful — and other community and cultures events at the properties.

MS. McFARLAND: Thank you. Since 2018 the Masjid and his development partner, Banneker Ventures has done significant outreach within the community by knocking on hundreds of doors, hundreds of residents' doors, attending community meetings, presenting at Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 8A meetings, and holding their own community meetings to discuss the map amendment application.

As a result of their long spanning service in

Anacostia outreach in the community and proposed uses for the new building, the Fort Stanton Civic Association fully and enthusiastically supports the Masjid's application for a map amendment.

MR. ANDERSON: My name is Stuart Anderson and I wear a lot of hats. I do a lot of different things in the community. And when I was called to come and speak before you, by Ms. Jones, I had no idea that I was coming to the aid and assistance of the Muslims.

(Laughter.)

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I was so glad that I get this opportunity, not just to read from a script, and talk about support for something. I can do something different. Among the many hats that I wear, I am the Democratic State Committeeman for Ward 8. I work closely with all of our ANC Commissioners, our Council Member, Mr. Trayon White.

And I work very closely with Amir Muhammad because I am also the Executive Director of Family & Friends of Incarcerated People, one of the chief organizations behind the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Peace Walk and Parade. I am the Co-Chair and the logistics coordinator who annually brings that festival to the community.

And as the young brother mentioned, and he talked all about, you know, righteousness and things of that nature.

And I was trying to follow, and I say, okay where's he going?

	But now as I thought about it through the process, he's
2	talking about the work that comes out of the Clara Muhammad
3	School, which is attached to the Masjid.
4	And I urge this committee to support this map
5	amendment with enthusiastic support. Your support will not
6	go in vain. It will definitely be of benefit to the
7	community as a whole because I know the work that comes out
8	of that Masjid. And not only the work that comes out of that
9	Masjid, but the work that comes out of the hearts and minds
10	of the many Muslims sitting in this room.
11	So I thank you very much for this opportunity to
12	share this with you. And I trust that you will make the
L3	right decision today. Peace.
L4	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Thank you. Young fellow, what's
L5	your name again? Turn you mic on.
16	MR. BRADFORD: My name is Sanquan Bradford.
L7	CHAIRMAN HOOD: So, I'm going to say this and then
18	I'm going to move away from this. I really appreciate your
L9	comments.
20	MR. BRADFORD: Yes, sir. Thank you.
21	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Because you never know you're
22	inspiring. You actually helped me this evening. Two minutes
23	before I walked out of here, I found out somebody that I was
24	supposed to go see last week passed.

MR. BRADFORD: Yes, sir. I'm sorry to hear that,

1	sir
2	CHAIRMAN HOOD: And I can just tell you that, you
3	know I think I can continue to do this and read, and keep
4	doing this. I've been doing that for 20 some years. I
5	thought I could deal with what I just heard, two minutes when
6	I walked out of here with my colleagues, and read this.
7	But you know, I guess the thing is, what I'm
8	thinking, and I'm just saying this, speaking out loud is, if
9	you got something to do. Don't put it off.
10	MR. BRADFORD: Yes, sir.
11	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Because tomorrow ain't promised.
12	And I said I was going, and the very next thing, I said, oh
13	well I got time.
14	MR. BRADFORD: Yes, sir.
15	CHAIRMAN HOOD: But time was not on my side. So
16	I appreciate your comments. Because you never know who
17	you're helping.
18	MR. BRADFORD: Yes, sir. Thank you, brother.
19	(Applause.)
20	CHAIRMAN HOOD: All right, so are there any
21	questions up here?
22	Ms. Jones, it's good to see you. My name is
23	Muhammad, Anthony Muhammad.
24	(Laughter.)
25	CHAIRMAN HOOD: All right. Did the Applicant have

1 any cross? Okay, all right. Do we have another panel in 2 support? Okay so we'll, does the ANC, do you have any 3 cross? I don't see Ms. Muhammad, I guess she -- do you have 5 any cross? Okay, all right. Let's go to organizations and persons in opposition. And thank you all for your testimony. 6 7 I appreciate it. Organizations and persons -- do we have a Okay, do we have anybody else who's in opposition? Come forward please. 9 10 Do we have anybody else Okav. And let's see. 11 who's in opposition and want to come forward? You want to 12 come forward? Okay. All right, identify yourself and you may 13 begin. 14 MR. DAY: Yes, my name is Dr. William Richard Day, also known as Minister William Richard X. And I am a native 15 Washingtonian with a rich history that goes back before the 16 civil war in Washington DC. 17 18 I would like to say, because I've heard many And I would just like to say a few things, 19 things up here. because -- digress a little bit from what I was going to say. 2.0 21 Because in Islam and in life in general, everyone has the right to their own opinion. 22 23 And everyone has the right, everyone has the right to differ. That's a part of American democracy and American 24

jurisprudence.

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And no one should be ostracized, chastised,

or looked down upon, or frowned upon because they oppose something. Especially if they feel in their heart and believe that they are right.

Now, I've heard comments from everyone in here that has spoke so far, and even from the Chair. There seems to be anti-opposition, person being opposed. And I feel like that is a little bit unjust and out of order. It's not right.

One of the reasons I'm in opposition is because the things that's being said in here today was not said to me. I've talked to people several times and tried to get a clear understanding. And I've been told something different than what's being said here today. And different things have gone on than what's been said here today.

And Mr. Karim, no disrespect, but I live only a couple a blocks away. No one knocked on my door. Especially when I went there face to face and talked to them at the school, and opposed it there. And since you knew I was in opposition and you was getting along with everyone, and you know I'm a Muslim also, then you could have come and knocked on my door.

People have my number. You could have contacted me and tried to communicate with me, and explain what's going on that's different than what I was told before we even got here. And then there wouldn't be all of this. So everyone

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has the right to their own opinion. And this is my opinion.

And I oppose the application, some of the grounds that I had, I withdraw, because things have changed. But I still oppose the application on the grounds that the real property in question is subject to listing, not only on the DC inventory of historic sites, but also on the national register of historic places.

And by their own admission, here and in their exhibits, they have acknowledged the historic context of the building and the site. And I haven't heard anything about preserving that history. What are we going to do about that?

And about sending it to the Historic Preservation Review Board? Therefore according to law the real property must be submitted for full review and designation prior to its consideration for map amendment, demolition or any future development.

I would also like to say that The Clara is not the name on the building, it says The Clara Muhammad School. And that's different. I also oppose the application on the grounds of naming of the proposed project.

And I therefore respectfully demand now that the Applicant, Commission, ANC, and all interested parties immediately cease and desist in attributing this proposed development and map amendment to the Honorable and Sacred name of our beloved sister, Clara Muhammad, the wife of the

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most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, as not only blasphemy and hypocrisy, but also a direct affront upon our religion, Islam to the accomplishments we the city and nation's former slaves have made, lived and practiced.

I oppose the application proposed map amendment and proposed development project on the grounds that our beloved sister Clara Muhammad during her lifetime was an active member of Muhammad's Temple of Islam or Nation of Islam, and not a member of Masjid Muhammad, which didn't even exist then.

She is not only a founding pillar of our nation, and the forerunner in establishing the many independent black schools and home schooling, but she was also a stanch advocate of black people doing for self, and for seeking a full and complete freedom through separation of cultures between black and white people.

Based upon moral and religious grounds, I strongly oppose and object to naming the development or any portion of the project, including the application in this proposed map amendment, after sister Clara Muhammad or using the subject property under her name to house anyone or anything other than a so-called American Negro, who now also identifies themselves as Black and African American, as an insult and affront to the religious and spiritual convictions I along with so many other believers, hold sacred.

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1 In light of Congress passage of public law 115-102 on January 8th, 2018, 400 Years of African-American History 2 Commission Act, officially recognizing 2019 as the 400 year 3 mark of our captivity and enslavement as a race and people. The map amendment proposed use is an insult to all 5 6 black people and will be devastating to the psyche of present 7 and future generations of black people due to laws that wound our true symbol of hope, that has remained in Ward 8. 9 I would just also like to say that you can change 10 the future, but you can't change the past. History is 11 history, has already happened. And what we do in the future 12 it's great if we can be in unity, if we can be in harmony. 13 But we cannot forget the past. And we cannot do this to our beloved sister Clara Muhammad. And that's what I'm asking you today, as a Muslim, as a brother, and as a friend. 15 If you're going to have other people in that 16 building, beside black people, don't put her name up there. 17 18 That is not right. And that is what I have to say, and I 19 thank you. 2.0 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. Thank you. Let's see if 21 we have any questions or comments from up here. All right. Does the Applicant have any cross? 22 MR. GLASGOW: Just, just very briefly. I have two 23 You indicated that you live very close to the 24

What is your home address?

property.

1	MR. DAY: My home address is on Hunter Place, the
2	2200 block of Hunter Place in SE, yes.
3	MR. GLASGOW: And is that address approximately
4	4/10ths of a mile away from the subject property?
5	MR. DAY: It's about four blocks away.
6	MR. GLASGOW: Okay, so you're way outside 200
7	feet?
8	MR. DAY: Well, she went to another entire ANC,
9	Fort Stanton is here. She went, I mean, not she, Mr. Karim.
10	So if he could go to all those other jurisdictions that was
11	further than 4/10ths of a mile away, what would be the
12	difference in coming to my house, especially if I stood in
13	your face and opposed it, and tried to talk to you about it?
14	MR. GLASGOW: Well, then there was contact, wasn't
15	there. You just admitted that?
16	MR. DAY: No, there was not. I said that I was
17	there, and I was talking to them. They told me something
18	else and I opposed it. They did not tell me all of this that
19	I heard in here today. I was told something different. So
20	they didn't come and knock on my door and talk to me. Not
21	in the sense that you're trying to point it out, sir.
22	MR. GLASGOW: No, I just said that they did talk
23	with you.
24	MR. DAY: I know what you said, I know what you
25	said.

1	MR. GLASGOW: Well, I'd like for you to explain
2	MR. DAY: No, Mr. Karim did not talk to me.
3	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Let's do this. Let's let, let's
4	ask the question, and let the person answer the question and
5	then we won't need to talk over each other. So Mr. Glasgow,
6	you have any more questions?
7	MR. GLASGOW: Yes, I have one last question. Did
8	you state that this building is listed on the DC Inventory
9	of Historic Properties?
10	MR. DAY: No, I did not.
11	MR. GLASGOW: All right, thank you.
12	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Does the ANC have any thank
13	you. Does the ANC have any cross? Yes.
14	MS. MUHAMMAD: As-Salaam-Alaikum, sir.
15	MR. DAY: Wa-Alaikum-Salaam.
16	MS. MUHAMMAD: Okay, so you said that it's not
17	listed, correct?
18	MR. DAY: Not to my knowledge, I said that it
19	should be listed. I said that before anything go forward,
20	it should go to the Historic Preservation Review Board.
21	MS. MUHAMMAD: Okay, so this property does not lie
22	in the historic boundaries
23	MR. DAY: It doesn't have to, ma'am.
24	MS. MUHAMMAD: Excuse me, sir. Let me finish,
25	please. It does not lie in the historic boundaries in 8A.

38 I am an ANC Commissioner on 8A. And as I have already testified, Mr. Karim and his firm came to community ANC meeting twice. He held his own community meeting which was standing room only at the site. He went door to door. So, he gave out his phone number, his personal phone was on all of his literature. You have had every opportunity to speak with him and resolve any issues that you have had, have with this The naming of the building, The Clara, project. maintain our cultural heritage. As I said, I am a current member of the Nation of Islam. And I understand this is Masjid Muhammad, but I fully support the project because they are carrying on our history. Our history is one. We are one Nation under God,

Our history is one. We are one Nation under God, and further you said you are Muslim. And I believe you. So I am encouraging you as a Muslim, as we're taught, if you have a problem with this development to sit down with Imam Shareef and Mr. Karim and work out your issues. This is not how we work out our issues, as Muslims.

MR. DAY: Objection, sir. I'm supposed to be being asked a question, and I'm being preached to here.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRMAN HOOD: So here --

MS. MUHAMMAD: I have asked the question.

CHAIRMAN HOOD: Madam, just a second.

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1	MR. DAY: This is exactly what I said, that's the
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3	MS. MUHAMMAD: This is my cross, sir, with all due
4	respect.
5	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Yes, let me just say this. He's
6	right. If you have a question.
7	MS. MUHAMMAD: Well, I've asked the question, and
8	I responded to it.
9	CHAIRMAN HOOD: So, could you restate it?
10	MS. MUHAMMAD: I'm sorry.
11	CHAIRMAN HOOD: So you finished with your
12	question?
13	MS. MUHAMMAD: Right, he said it's not on any
14	historic list. We are maintaining the historic cultural
15	history of this building and the location. And also we've
16	maintained
17	CHAIRMAN HOOD: So, Ms. Muhammad, you asked your
18	question.
19	MS. MUHAMMAD: I'm sorry, but I would just like
20	to say also we're maintaining the Islamic museum which will
21	have 7,000 square feet in the building. Our history will
22	remain there. Thank you.
23	MR. DAY: And I still go on the record objecting
24	to what she just did.
25	MS. MUHAMMAD: That's your prerogative.

1 MR. DAY: It is ma'am, because you're --2 MS. SCHELLIN: So sometimes, let me say this. right, she's supposed 3 to but sometimes situations like this, I allow that for the simple reason, so 5 you know, we can bridge the gap. So I should have cut her You're right. But I allowed that. But now if I cut 6 7 her off, if I cut somebody and they want to give something. And I don't give them the opportunity, then I'm at fault. 9 Like you mentioned the chair, this chair. Let me just tell you this. One thing about it, 10 11 it's good for opposition. And it's good for proponents. Because from our standpoint, sometime when all that comes 12 together, than we come up with a better outcome. 13 nobody is against opposition. Opposition is great. what helps the process. 15 I've been doing this over 20 some odd years. 16 I watch the opposition help inform and shape this city. 17 18 I heard you mention my name. I wasn't going to say anything. But since I have the floor, I figure I would just say that. 19 Nobody is against opposition. 2.0 21 I have to be balanced when I, the Commission has to be balanced for everybody, opposition, for proponents, 22 those who don't show up, and those who do show up. 23 have to do all that. 24

MR. DAY:

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Well in rebuttal to that statement, sir.

1 First of all, if she, all the preaching that she just did to 2 me, she could have taken me -- she could have asked her 3 question. Left it at that. And we could have stepped in the 4 hallway. 5 I came here in peace. And I opened up in peace. And I spoke in peace. And I have not insulted anyone. 6 7 tried to be reasonable. And that would have been the proper handling of people. Is to take me outside and say, brother 9 can we talk? And then we could get into all ideologies. 10 11 But to be supposed to ask me an official question and then preach to me, and it allowed to go on the record all 12 that time is out of order. 13 14 CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, so --15 MS. MUHAMMAD: So I would be happy to speak with him off mic. 16 17 CHAIRMAN HOOD: So here's what we do since you opened that up. After this hearing, can you two have a 18 conversation and continue to work on your issues and your 19 2.0 disagreement? 21 MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes, sir. Are you open to that? 22 CHAIRMAN HOOD: I never had a problem. 23 MR. DAY: I tried to talk to them before. And she mentioned that. But everyone keeps 24 25 talking about the site. That was her question, which I never

1	got to answer. Is the site historic?
2	The gentleman before asked the same thing, as if
3	they're trying to beat a point. It doesn't have to be in an
4	historic district to be designated as historic landmark.
5	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. So you responded to her
6	question. That's your answer. And I'm going to cut that off
7	right there.
8	MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes, sir. I would just to say
9	let's move forward in unity.
10	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, so you all can have that
11	conversation after this hearing.
12	MS. MUHAMMAD: Thank you, sir.
13	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay, thank you all, both. Thank
14	you both, we appreciate it.
15	All right, Commissioners any follow up, anything?
16	All right, colleagues what is your pleasure with this case?
17	I think it's straight forward. I think the merits are
18	warrant. I think it's, Mr. Glasgow do you have rebuttal?
19	MR. GLASGOW: No, sir.
20	CHAIRMAN HOOD: You have a closing?
21	MR. GLASGOW: Just very quickly. We hope that we
22	can get a decision this evening.
23	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Okay. I was on my way to that,
24	thank you. I think this case is flavored right for us to go
25	ahead and disseminate and deal with. And I think the merits

1	speak for itself. I think the adverse impacts have been
2	realized of making this zone MU-5A. I think Mr. Dettman had
3	mentioned that, as we move forward. So let me hear from
4	others.
5	COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I agree, Mr. Chair.
6	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Would somebody like to make a
7	motion? This is too low? This is too low, yes. Let me ask
8	this, before this before we do that? Are we looking for
9	anything?
10	I didn't hear it, if we okay, so nobody needs
11	anything. So let's go ahead then. Somebody make a motion.
12	I think this is flavored right, ready for us to move forward.
13	COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Mr. Chair, I would move
14	that we take proposed action on Zoning Case Number 19-03,
15	Masjid Muhammad Inc., Map Amendment at Square 5790, Lots
16	32-35, 39, 40, 47, 818 & 819. And look for a second.
17	COMMISSIONER SHAPIRO: Second.
18	CHAIRMAN HOOD: It's been moved and properly
19	seconded. Any further discussion? All in favor?
20	(Chorus of aye.)
21	CHAIRMAN HOOD: Any opposition? Not hearing any,
22	Ms. Schellin would you please record the vote?
23	MS. SCHELLIN: Yes, staff reports the vote 4-0-1
24	to approve proposed action in Zoning Case Number 19-03.
25	Commissioner Turnbull moving, Commissioner Shapiro seconding.

1	Commissioners Miller and May in support. Commissioner Miller
2	not present, not voting. If I could get a draft order in two
3	weeks.
4	MR. GLASGOW: Two weeks I think that's
5	Commissioner Hood in support.
6	MS. SCHELLIN: I'm sorry, Commissioners Hood and
7	May in support. Commissioner Miller not present, not voting.
8	MR. GLASGOW: Right. When did you need the order?
9	MS. SCHELLIN: In two weeks, if we could have that
10	by 3 0'clock p.m. on July 29th? And then this will be placed
11	on the Commission's September 9th agenda for Final Action.
12	CHAIRMAN HOOD: All right, we all on the same
13	page? Ms. Schellin, do we have anything else for us tonight?
14	MS. SCHELLIN: No, sir.
15	CHAIRMAN HOOD: All right, with that I thank
16	everyone for their participation tonight. And this hearing
17	is adjourned.
18	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the
19	record at 7:48 p.m.)
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<u>CERTIFICATE</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Public Hearing

Before: DCZC

Date: 07-15-19

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

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