

Arthur Capper/Carrollsbury HOPE VI Steering Committee

July 5, 2012

Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW—Suite 220
Washington, DC 20001

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RE: District of Columbia Housing Authority Request for Two-Year Extension For Community Center in Square 881W

The Arthur Capper Carrollsbury HOPE VI Steering Committee is composed of stakeholders that include former and current Arthur Capper Carrollsbury residents, community business owners, and the Navy/Marines, two military installations located in the community. The committee holds quarterly meetings to discuss the project and acts in its capacity as an advisory body to District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA). We are writing this letter in support of DCHA's request for extension to construct a Community Center on Square 881W.

In June 2012, DCHA presented to the steering community the need to request another two year extension for the permitting and construction of the community center. The additional time being requested is necessary due to insufficient funding at this time to construct the community center, and to allow DCHA additional time to secure the financing necessary for the construction of the community center.

We are aware that DCHA has been working aggressively to identify funding strategies for the construction of the community center and has worked to provide interim solutions for the community's need for recreation opportunities. For example, DCHA has contributed \$1.7 million of the PILOT funds towards the construction of Canal Park, a three square park in the Capper neighborhood. The park will provide passive and active recreational opportunities for the Capper residents. In addition, DCHA negotiated with the Capitol Hill Day school to sod the future site of the community center so that it can be used by the community as a play field and it is now being used as such. Lastly, DCHA will soon begin reaching out to potential anchor tenants who will have the financial and operational capacity to operate the community center.

We are also aware and have been briefed in our quarterly steering committee meetings that DCHA is working on the refinancing of its 2010 Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) where it will

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EXHIBIT NO. 7
12/03/13

yield sufficient funding to build the community center. DCHA anticipates that the District will issue bonds and create an escrow of bond proceeds to be used to complete the public infrastructure at the Capper Carrollsburg HOPE VI site and funds to construct the community center, which is estimated to cost approximately \$7.6 million. DCHA is currently working with the District with an expected issuance of bonds by December 2012.

We, the Steering Committee, are in support of DCHA's request for extension and recommend that the Zoning Commission approve the extension as requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Capper".

Arthur Capper\Carrollsburg Steering Committee