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Chairperson
 Committee on Human Services
 (including Alcohol Regulation)

May 30, 2012

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Ms. Catherine Buell, Chair
 Historic Preservation Review Board
 D.C. Historic Preservation Office
 1100 4th Street, S.W., Suite E650
 Washington, D.C. 20024

Re: HPA No. 12-159 - *BZA No. 18375*
 Florida Avenue at 7th and 9th Streets, NW (U Street Historic District)

Dear Ms. Buell and Members of the Board,

I am writing in full support of the proposed project at Florida Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW, in the U Street Historic District. As the Councilmember of Ward One, where this project is located, I have a strong desire to see well-designed and appropriate buildings in terms of mass and scale for this edge of the U Street Historic District. I believe that the proposed new buildings relate appropriately to the surrounding neighborhood. The redevelopment will rejuvenate this segment of Florida Avenue which is comprised of mostly vacant lots today. The new buildings will bring housing (8% of which will be affordable units through the City's Inclusionary Zoning program), vast streetscape improvements along Florida Avenue, 8th and 9th Streets, the restoration of a historic structure and vibrant street-level retail. These are precisely the features of land planning needed to revitalize the historic district and our community at large.

In order to make this development a reality, a portion of the north-south 10-foot public alley in Square 393 which is accessed from Florida Avenue must be closed and rerouted to 9th Street (as called for in the DUKE Development Framework Plan). While a small portion of the alley will be closed, the alley will be re-routed and expanded to 20-feet, entering from 9th Street and connecting with the existing north-south alley which will be widened for the extent of the property. The result is a significantly improved alley condition for all of the properties within the square.

I am pleased to support this redevelopment and related alley closing and urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve the conceptual design so this project can get underway as soon as possible.

Bests,

JG/jl

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
 District of Columbia
 CASE NO. 18375
 EXHIBIT NO. 33

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