Zoning Commission Case # 05-03
Anacostia Gateway Government Center

Testimony of Albert R. "Butch" Hopkins, Jr.
June 23, 2005

Good evening, I am Albert "Butch" Hopkins, President and CEO of the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). I am pleased to be here this evening to testify in support of the Anacostia Gateway Government Center.

The AEDC is an adjoining property owner to the Government Center site. It is developing a 63,000 SF commercial building at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Good Hope Road S.E. The two developments are perceived as "sister" projects that are closely related and will move forward together.

AEDC has worked closely with the District government in planning its building and coordinating certain design features with the Government Center. Both buildings include retail space along Good Hope Road and are setback the same distance from Good Hope Road, allowing for a grander sidewalk area and for added exposure to the retail components. AEDC is of the opinion that this alignment of the buildings is appealing and will provide a greater sense of community.

Locating the new headquarters for the District's Department of Transportation here is an important step in the effort to bring job opportunities and economic development to Anacostia. The Government Center will complement the planned development of AEDC's building and will stimulate commercial development in the surrounding area.

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DDOT employees, contractors and visitors will patronize local stores bringing commercial growth and opportunity to the area.

AEDC is excited that the DDOT will be its new neighbor and by the fact that their building will act as a gateway to a new and revitalized Anacostia. AEDC respectfully requests that the Zoning Commission approve the Anacostia Gateway Government Center this evening and allow this much needed project to move forward. Thank you.

Albert "Butch" Hopkins