AEDC

Anacostia Economic Development Corporation
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"Serving the Community Since 1969"

June 21, 2005

Anthony Hood, Vice Chair
Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Letter of Support for Application Case No. 05-03 for Consolidated PUD and Related Map Amendment Approval for the Anacostia Gateway Government Center

Dear Mr. Hood:

On behalf of the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation ("AEDC"), I would like to express its strong support for the proposed Anacostia Gateway Government Center. The AEDC owns the property at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue and Good Hope Road, SE adjoining the Government Center site. The Department of Housing and Community Development and the Office of Property Management were instrumental in making this property available for the sale to AEDC. AEDC sees the two developments as "sister" projects that are closely related and will move forward together.

Per the terms of AEDC's contract with the District government, AEDC has committed to develop a commercial building that will have first floor, street-front retail uses. AEDC has worked closely with the District government in planning its building and coordinating certain design features of its building and the Government Center. In addition to similar heights where the buildings face each other, both buildings include space along Good Hope Road. In creating this retail corridor, AEDC's building and the Good Hope Wing of the Government Center have been designed such that they are setback the same distance from the Good Hope Road (approximately 8 feet from the property line), allowing for a grander sidewalk area and for added exposure to the retail components of the two buildings. AEDC is of the opinion that this alignment of the buildings is aesthetically appealing and will provide a greater sense of place for pedestrians and shoppers frequenting the businesses along Good Hope Road.

AEDC believes that establishing a major DC agency (DDOT) in this area is a important step in the effort to bring job opportunities and economic development to Anacostia. This area has been in critical need of economic development for a number of years. Less than 2% of the land area in Ward 8 is devoted to commercial uses. As a result, Ward 8 offers fewer commercial services to its residents than any other ward in the city.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-03
EXHIBIT NO. 24

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The Government Center will complement the planned development of AEDC's building and will stimulate commercial development in the surrounding area. DDOT employees, contractors and visitors will patronize local stores bringing commercial growth and opportunity to the area.

AEDC is excited that the Department of Transportation 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 this application for the Anacostia Gateway Government Center at its hearing on June 23, 2005.

Albert R. Hopkins, Jr.
President & CEO

Cc: Jesse R. King, Jr., PhD. Chairman, AEDC