



December 9, 2005

Ms. Carol J. Mitten, Chair
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Zoning Commission Case No. 05-24
Eastgate Planned Unit Development

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2005 DEC 19 PM 3:47

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express support for the proposal by A&R/THC II LLC to create an urban tree park on the site of the Eastgate HOPE VI redevelopment in the Marshall Heights neighborhood of Ward 7. This idea, which is being developed in conjunction with community members, and the DC Housing Authority could be a valuable amenity for the new residents of Eastgate and for the community.

As presented to us, the urban tree park idea includes protecting and enhancing the existing grove of trees on an undeveloped portion of the Eastgate site by reforesting and creating walking trails. Other ideas currently being explored include creating a rain garden, an urban wildflower meadow, and possible interpretative signage. The park will not only have recreational and public health benefits for residents, but also ecological benefits.

Casey Trees is most willing to confer with the site developers and their consultants concerning planning for the tree park. We may be able to provide some trees on a matching basis to the developer and would like to consider organizing neighbors to help plant the trees. We are also interested in the tree and landscape plans for the entire project, including the placement of shade trees for energy conservation in the units and in the application of techniques to minimize and filter stormwater runoff that is conveyed from the site to Watts Branch and on to the Anacostia. We are happy to provide expert contacts and potential sources of support for these elements.

We look forward to working with the development team and the community to make this idea a reality. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

James R. Lyons
Executive Director

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~~District of Columbia~~
CASE NO. 05-24
EXHIBIT NO. 21