

RECD-10

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

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Mission: To empower our endangered youth to reclaim the Anacostia River, their communities, and their lives.

October 9, 2007

Anthony Hood
DC Zoning Commission
Re: Zoning Number 07-16

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-16
EXHIBIT NO. 26

Dear Mr. Hood:

On behalf of the Earth Conservation Corps, I am writing to express our partnership and collective support for Chapman Development's 2300 Pennsylvania Avenue project, which plans to bring community benefit and opportunity to residents in Ward 8.

Earth Conservation Corps is a youth development and environmental service nonprofit headquartered in our nation's most disadvantaged communities in Southwest/Southeast Washington, DC. Since our inception in 1989 as a White House Domestic Policy Initiative, we have successfully transformed the lives of DC's "hardest to reach" youth ages 17 through 25 (*called – Corps members*) by incorporating a model of progressive leadership, education and environmental workforce development focused on restoring the heavily polluted Anacostia River.

Earth Conservation Corps has a track record marked with excellence, leveraging young people and resources to accomplish goals that reap community benefit, demonstrated by the construction of the Anacostia Riverwalk demonstration sites and the fact that 87% of youth participants transitioned into promising careers and/or higher education. In 2006 alone our Corps members engaged 5,575 DC Public School youth and adults in environmental education and volunteer service on the Anacostia River.

In 2004 we launched our River of Hope Initiative in partnership with the Office of the Mayor and the District Department of Transportation. This initiative seeks to dramatically cut youth crime and violence by using the powerful economic engine of the Anacostia Waterfront Development to engage every unemployed young person in a meaningful career training opportunity, while accomplishing much needed projects along the Anacostia River. Chapman Development's connection to the community and emphasis on environmental sustainability is inspiring and obvious with their commitment to employ 25 Corps members during the construction process.

We are confident that Chapman Development's 2300 Pennsylvania Avenue project is a natural fit to help the youth of our city realize their potential. It is settling to know that Chapman Development shares our belief that the social and economic benefits derived

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from a revitalized waterfront and neighborhoods can have a positive impact on disconnected young people.

Sincerely,


Glen O'Gilvie
President and CEO

