



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
ROOM 107
WASHINGTON, DC 20004



HARRY THOMAS, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER
WARD 5

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July 30, 2009

Anthony Hood
Zoning Commission, Chairman
331 – 4th Street, NW, Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Zoning Commission Case No. 09-06 Request for PUD and Zoning
Amendment

Dear Chairman Hood:

As a lifelong resident of Ward 5, I would like to express my strong support for Abdo New York Avenue LLC's proposed Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map amendment application for the project at 2001 New York Avenue, NE. The mixed-use project proposed will be a much needed change for Ward 5.

This project will bring investment to an area of the District that has been neglected and transform a current blighted area into a vibrant neighborhood. The project's proposed addition of over 1,400 new residential units to the District's housing stock will provide desirable and workforce housing opportunities in this new community. In addition, the project will increase the current taxes generated by the site, and generate construction jobs as well as permanent jobs. The job creation is particularly noteworthy given the developer's successful track record and commitment to local small business enterprises. In addition, Abdo will voluntarily enter into an agreement to participate in the Department of Employment Services First Source Employment Program to promote and encourage the hiring of DC residents.

The project is supported by the area's neighbors, ANC's and civic leaders. They recognize the significant impact that this project will have on the neighborhood and the not-to-be-missed opportunity to transform an existing blighted area into a vibrant place to live. The neighborhood will experience a type of renaissance that has occurred in other Wards of the City. There are many amenities offered through the PUD process which

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include various retail opportunities, public spaces, and new streets, just to name a few

For these reasons, I urge the Zoning Commission to grant the PUD and Zoning Map Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Thomas, Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "H" and "T".

Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember, Ward 5