

June 29, 2016

Marnique Heath
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200/210-S
Washington, DC 20001



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Subject: BZA Case #19314, Application of American Geophysical Union, pursuant to 11 DCMR §§ 3103.2, 3104.1 and 411, for a variance from the off-street parking requirements under § 2101.1, and a special exception from the penthouse setback requirements under §§ 777 and 411.18, to renovate an existing office building including the installation of a rooftop solar array in the DC/C-3-B District at premises 2000 Florida Avenue N.W. (Square 90, Lot 33)

Dear Ms. Heath:

Please accept this letter in support of the BZA application submitted by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) for the renovation of their headquarters building at 2000 Florida Avenue NW. AGU is the world's largest organization of Earth and space scientists dedicated to the global advancement of science and sustainability. The AGU headquarters building has been a prominent fixture in the Dupont Circle neighborhood since 1992 and is a well-known destination for the science community.

The proposed renovation project is rooted in AGU's mission of "science for the benefit of humanity." AGU's project proposes to create a sense of place for its members that extends beyond its doors to the neighboring communities and promotes engagement and educational opportunities centered around the power of science. In addition, this ground-breaking project will place the AGU building in a class of commercial properties that are designed to reduce their carbon and environmental footprint in the District of Columbia through various sustainability efforts.

The renovation of AGU's building is quite timely as we recently announced that Washington, DC has been selected to host the organization's annual Fall Meeting in 2018 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The opening of the renovated headquarters building will be an added benefit for conference attendees as the building will provide additional, well-equipped work and informal gathering space, as well as serve as an education museum and reference source. We are hopeful that

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the new building will attract conference-goers to a neighborhood beyond the perimeter of the Convention Center, as well as encourage greater interaction with residents.

I enthusiastically support this significant project and am confident that it will be of great value to the science community and the District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Gregory A. O'Dell', is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Gregory A. O'Dell
President and Chief Executive Officer

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