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March 24, 2026

Marnique Heath, AIA, Chair  
DC Historic Preservation Review Board  
D.C. Historic Preservation Office  
1100 Fourth Street SW, Suite e650  
Washington, DC 20024

Board of Zoning Adjustment of the District of Columbia  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Suite 2108  
Washington, DC 20001

RE: H Street Project, 503-517 H Street NW, HPA 26-149, Revised Concept of Hotel Addition and  
BZA Modification Application

Dear Chair Heath, and Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

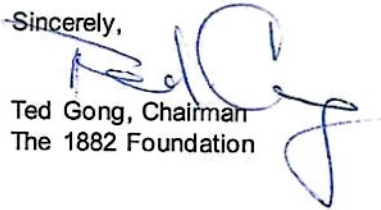
As the Chairman of the 1882 Foundation, I am writing to express support for HPA 26-149 for the Conceptual design to rehabilitate the seven Historic row houses and construct a new 10-story addition behind them in the Chinatown section of the Downtown Historic District. The proposed Marriott Tribute Hotel ensures the legacy of these historic houses for another century.

In addition, I support the upcoming BZA Case 20974-A for modifying the approved BZA plans and continued area variance relief from the rear yard requirements. The BZA case seeks approval of modifications so that the BZA plans are consistent with the newly approved HBRD plans that enable the building addition to rise to 110 feet and include more square footage. The additional height triggers the need for approximately 2 additional feet of rear yard relief for the BZA.

As part of the "Preserving and Protecting Chinatown Emergency Act of 2025" tax abatement, the Marriott Tribute Hotel will operate an Asian market with input from Wah Luck House, Chinatown Revitalization Initiative and ANC 2C; lease one space to business/non-profit that enhances the cultural heritage of Chinatown neighborhood; and donate \$300,000 to the Chinatown Long-term Lease Grant Program. We recognize that the proposed use, a 154-key Marriott Tribute Hotel with ground floor restaurant, retail and Asian Market uses, will promote Downtown revitalization, street activation, and the overall vibrancy of Chinatown.

In closing, I would like to say that I have worked with the property owners and Rift Valley for several years. Both historical and cultural preservation and community and commercial vibrancy have been foremost in our many discussions. I know we do not have all the answers to all the issues, but a key is a willingness to listen to neighbors such as the shops adjacent to the proposed hotel and the neighbors who share the alley behind it. Will the new hotel look beyond the footprint it occupies and actively work with neighbors collaboratively... I am confident the Rift Valley will continue in that spirit, and the Marriott Tribute will too. I urge you to approve their requests for modifications."

Sincerely,

  
Ted Gong, Chairman  
The 1882 Foundation

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 20974B  
EXHIBIT NO. 20