Government of the District of Columbia

Eric W. Price
Deputy Mayor for Planning and
Economic Development

March 10, 2004

Members of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re Application of the District of Columbia Housing Authority to Rezone Lots 62, 63, 64 and 65 in Square 5869 from R-5-A to C-1, and Request For an Expedited Review of the Application

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

As you are aware, my office is charged with the duty of promoting neighborhood revitalization and economic growth in the District. To that end, I write to express my strong support for the requested zoning map amendment, and for the requested expedited hearing and action on the above-referenced application.

The requested rezoning of Lots 62, 63, 64 and 65 in Square 5869 from R-5-A to C-1 is necessary to permit the construction of a state-of-the-art automotive training center on the subject property. Square 5869 is located in Ward 8, which suffers from:

- the lowest median household income of any ward in the District;
- the lowest percentage of District students completing college and high school;
- the highest poverty rate of any ward in the District;
- the largest number of persons receiving food stamps and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); and
- the highest unemployment rate of any ward in the District.

The application and proposed automotive training center are steps in the right direction to begin combating these problems. The proposed training center is designed to equip members of underserved communities with skills necessary for

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employment in the automotive repair industry Moreover, in order to help combat the cycle of unemployment, lack of job training skills, and other negative socio-economic factors highlighted above, a number of student spaces for classes held at the training center will be reserved specifically for individuals applying for or receiving assistance from the District's Housing Authority. Further, participants that successfully complete the automotive training program at the training center will also receive "life skills" training that will teach skills necessary for securing and maintaining entry-level employment opportunities.

The benefits that will flow from the requested zoning map modification, and the subsequent construction of the automotive training center are unquantifiable, but certainly are benefits the District has been waiting years to provide for its citizens. Accordingly, we should do all we can to facilitate this process in a timely, efficient manner, so the citizens of the District can begin to receive some of the employment and life skills training that are necessary to become successful, productive members of the District and society as a whole To this end, I respectfully request that the Zoning Commission process the zoning map amendment application on an expedited basis, and ultimately grant the requested rezoning of Lots 62, 63, 64 and 65 in Square 5869 from R-5-A to C-1.

Sincerely,

Eric Price
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

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