

West End Citizens Association

Washington, D.C.

Boundaries: 15th Street on the East • Potomac Park on the South
Rock Creek and the Potomac on the West • N Street on the North

January 29, 2025

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street N.W. - Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Proposed Condition for ZC No. 07-21D, Application for PUD Modification Without a Hearing to ZC No. 07-21, as amended by ZC Nos. 07-21A, B, & C (2201 M St NW, Sq. 0050, Lot 0087)

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the West End Citizens Association (WECA), which was granted “Party” status in the applications resulting in Z.C. Orders 07-21B and 07-21C (2201 M Street NW, Sq. 0050, Lot 0087).

In ZC No. 07-21D, the current owner of the Hilton Garden Inn hotel at 2201 M Street NW is seeking to further amend PUD ZC No. 07-21, as amended by ZC Nos. 07-21A, B, and C, to allow a sign installed in 2024 at the top of the Hilton Garden Inn building to remain, **with the condition that this sign will never be illuminated**. The WECA previously opposed signage being placed atop the hotel and **the Zoning Commission has twice ordered that no sign be placed at the top of the building**. Notwithstanding the Zoning Commission's prohibition, the current owner placed a sign at the top of the hotel which was promptly illuminated. According to the owner's Supporting Statement, it claims to have been unaware of the Commission's prohibition of signage at the top of the building.

The West End neighborhood was significantly negatively impacted by the extreme light pollution of the illumination of the sign installed in 2024 in violation of the ZC Orders. In addition, the neighborhood began to acquire a Times Square-like appearance with the bright sign. In an attempt to position its after-the-fact application to remove the Commission's existing prohibition as a compromise, the Applicant is promising to never illuminate the sign.

The WECA continues to oppose the placement of any signage at the top of the building. However, if the Zoning Commission is inclined to grant the Application, the WECA requests that it do so **on the condition that the existing sign at the top of the building or any replacement in this locale never be illuminated**. The WECA further requests that the ZC Order make clear that any additional signage installed in the future also be prohibited from being illuminated.

Thank you for your consideration of the WECA's recommendations.

Sincerely,
/s/
Sara Maddux, President