

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

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May 28, 2008

D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Re: Z.C. Case No. 08-04
Southeast Federal Center – Waterfront Park
Design Review and Related Relief**

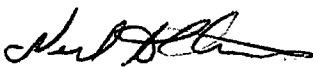
Honorable Members of the Commission:

I would like to state my unequivocal support for the proposed Waterfront Park along the Anacostia River. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development fully support the efforts of Forest City Washington to develop a vibrant waterfront park that, through a mix of welcoming spaces for a wide range of activities, will serve Washingtonians of all ages and backgrounds.

My office has been working with representatives of Forest City Washington and the design team to create a signature waterfront park that is consistent with District planning goals and policies. This thoughtful and deliberate planning process has resulted in a park that is consistent with the District's goals for the Southeast Federal Center and the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. The park contains a mix of active and passive recreation spaces that will enhance public recreational opportunities along the waterfront and provide multiple opportunities for gathering and activity. Moreover, the park has been sensitively designed to minimize adverse impacts on the Anacostia River, and it will serve as an amenity to nearby properties as well as the District as a whole.

The most important reason the applicants' request should be granted, however, is because the development will have a lasting positive impact on the residents of the District of Columbia. This waterfront park is an important first step in the District's efforts to reconnect the District of Columbia to the Anacostia River. When completed, the park will provide all residents an opportunity to discover and enjoy the river as an exciting destination that will be an asset for the District for years to come. For all of the above reasons, we urge this Commission to approve the design of the waterfront park and grant the requested relief.

Sincerely,



Neil O. Albert
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 08-04
EXHIBIT No. 19