

January 26, 2011

Harriet Tregoning, Director
Office of Planning
Government of the District of Columbia
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington DC 20024

Dear Ms. Tregoning:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Washington Waterfront Association for PN Hoffman-Madison Marquette's (PNH-MM) submission of its Planned Unit Development (PUD) application to redevelop the Southwest Waterfront.

The Washington Waterfront Association Inc. (WWA) was founded in 1980 as a non-profit business and civic organization promoting the Washington Waterfront. Its diverse membership is made up of large, national and international corporations, family-owned businesses, and non-profit organizations, entities of the District of Columbia and the federal government.

The WWA has been patiently awaiting for the redevelopment of this critically important site for more than a decade, and we are very eager to see the PUD approved and the redevelopment commence.

During this wait we have watched as critical marine infrastructure, utilities and transportation plans in the Southwest have become outdated and incapable of supporting current uses let alone future growth. Sadly, this delay places the Southwest Waterfront at a significant competitive disadvantage with nearby waterfront developments in Maryland and Virginia. By way of example, as I write this, we are engaged in a national competition to secure a five-day International Tall Ship event in 2012. The event has the potential to generate tens of millions of dollars in economic stimulus for the District of Columbia. The sponsor of this event has made it painfully clear that the Southwest's present lack of port infrastructure and the antiquated facilities which currently exist make this award doubtful.

For several years PNH-MM has shared both its vision and designs of the redevelopment with WWA members. We believe that these plans will truly transform the area into a world class waterfront community, and will bring new activity, resources, and revenues to the waterfront, to the Southwest

¹ <u>See</u> Sail Training International, Tall Ships Sail Training 2010 at page 48 (estimating public spending at similar events in Europe generates €20 to 35 million per port visit.

community, and to our city. It will be a beautiful and sustainable District asset that will generate significant tax revenues, jobs, housing, and opportunities for DC businesses, and also will be a major destination for Washington tourists and visitors from throughout the metropolitan region.

We strongly urge the expeditious review and approval of PNH-MM's plan before you in order to allow a construction start in 2012.

Respectfully,

J. Nickerson

President

Cc Ms. Debbie Moroni WWA Secretary Ms. Elinor Bacon



January 18, 2011

Ms. Harriet Tregoning, Director Office of Planning Government of the District of Columbia 1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 Washington DC 20024

Dear Ms. Tregoning:

I am writing to express the strong support of Mandarin Oriental, Washington DC for PN Hoffman-Madison Marquette's submission of their Planned Unit Development application to redevelop the Southwest Waterfront.

Mandarin Oriental has made a significant investment in Southwest and that investment is not delivering the anticipated return on investment as we have been waiting for the redevelopment of this critically important site for so long.

We are therefore anxious to see the PUD approved and the redevelopment commence. The plans of PNH-MM have the potential to transform this long neglected area into a world class waterfront community, and will bring new activity, resources and revenues to the waterfront, to the Southwest community and to our city.

While it can but help the development of our business it will also be a sustainable District asset that will generate significant tax revenues, jobs, housing and opportunities for DC businesses, and also will be a major destination for tourists and visitors to the city.

We encourage an expeditious review and approval of the plan in order to allow a construction start in 2012.

With my kind regards

Yours sincerely

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, WASHINGTON DC

Amanda Hyndman General Manager



RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Bledsoe, Ph.D., Pastor Recurring Adjunct Professor, Howard University School of Divinity

January 19.2011

Harriet Tregoning, Director Office of Planning Government of the District of Columbia 1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650 Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Tregoning:

The purpose of my missive to you is simple: I wish to convey my sincere and strong support for PN Hoffman-Madison Marquette's submission of their Planned Urban Development application for the redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront.

For nineteen years I have pastored a beautiful and remarkable congregation on the corner of 7th, I and Maine Avenue. I have eaten rum rolls at Hogates, orange chicken at Jenny's, shared in ecumenical services at St. Dominic's and Westminster Presbyterian, walked through our community in CROP walks to alleviate hunger, watched with admiration as the city opened up the Fourth Street corridor, and of course, ministered to its residents as well as residents of the Greater Washington region. This is a very special community. Riverside Baptist Church stands directly across the street from the proposed redevelopment and I am so very glad to see this day taking shape around us. It is time now for a world-class waterfront. The planned development promises an array of activity and resources, revenue and jobs, housing and business. I am quite excited about the fact that Maine Avenue may very well become the premier boulevard in our great city. As I look at the model of the development and peer down Maine Avenue, I am reminded of Berlin's tree-lined Kurfürstendamm—a grand avenue of commerce, cafes, hotels and shops. Our area has desired for a very long time to replace the worn and concretized remnants of a harsher development with the warmth and humane designs of pedestrian commerce. The vision of PNH-MM has now positioned us upon the precipice of a community ready to live up to its full potential as a world destination. I am hopeful and believe this PUD and the plans of PNH-MM will be approved and commence soon. I certainly urge the expeditious review and approval so that construction can begin in 2012.

I pray this finds you well and wish you and your colleagues all the best for this young year.

Sincerely,

Pastor Michael Bledsoe, PH.D.

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680 I St., SW

Washington DC 20024

202.554.4330 ♣ http://RiversideDC.org

An interracial, inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith