

Testimony of ANC-6D
Before Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
Z.C. Case No. 11-03E
Second Planned Unit Development for
7th Street Recreational Pier at the Southwest Waterfront
June 2, 2016

Good evening Commissioners. My name is Andy Litsky. I live at 423 N Street, SW and tonight I will be delivering testimony on behalf of ANC-6D where I served as Chairman. I have lived at the Southwest Waterfront for 39 years and have served for the past 18 representing the Waterfront District as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.

I am also the SMD Commissioner for 6D-04, representing both of the residential waterfront complexes directly adjacent to this particular PUD as well as the 94 live aboard residents whose homes are at the Gangplank Marina, the only residents actually living within the boundaries of the PUD itself. The entire Wharf complex is in my single member district.

ANC-6D was pleased when we had learned that the Applicant wanted to accelerate the construction on the Seventh Street Recreational Pier, including it within the First Phase rather than Phase Three of the development as originally considered. Clearly, what the Applicant has before you this evening will be a very positive addition and an important public amenity to add to the broad array of attractions that will make The Wharf the most exciting development in the District of Columbia.

From the very beginning of discussions about the redevelopment of the Southwest, and those discussions began many years before The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, the residents who lived in Southwest noted that there was something palpably lacking about living here on the Waterfront. Here we were living at the water's edge and yet --- unless we were liveaboards or had a slip at the Capital Yacht Club --- all that we could do was cast longing glances.

When I first moved to Southwest from Boston many years ago, I came equipped with a kayak -- the one that I used on The Charles -- fully expecting that I'd be able to paddle my way along the Channel to the Potomac. What I got was a rude awakening. So close, yet so far. It first gathered dust on my balcony and then later it gathered dust in my backyard until it was finally

donated. Getting out onto the water in our own neighborhood was simply unattainable. So close, yet so far.

So, when we began the discussions in earnest about what was to be on our new Waterfront, our ANC strongly embraced a development that would provide options to get on to -- not just gaze at -- the water. Accordingly, ANC-6D from the beginning of discussions with the Applicant has embraced the very active uses of what has been proposed at Seventh Street Recreational Pier. It will vastly enhance the experience living here at the waters edge for those of us who have waited so long for that access.

The fire pit, the swings, the floating docks and wetlands -- they are truly first class additions to the value that the Pier will bring to our neighborhood, the District and the region as a whole. I want to make it abundantly clear what the predominant reason that, at a meeting held on March 14, 2016, with a quorum present, that ANC-6D voted 6-0-0 to support this application -- and it is perhaps the most important public amenity within Southwest Waterfront redevelopment project -- is that it will provide all concerned with direct access to the water right here in Southwest.

So it's with the understanding that such direct access to The Washington Channel from Seventh Street Recreational Pier will continue to be employed, that I urge you, on behalf of ANC-6D, to support this application this evening and give our comments great weight.

One more thing: I would hope that you direct the Applicant to continue to work with GPSA, the recognized representatives of the Gangplank Liveaboard Community, and the board of the Capital Yacht Club throughout the construction of the Seventh Street Recreational Pier and especially seeking input from them as they establish the new "Rules of the Road" along the Washington Channel.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.