

Outline of Testimony of Andrew Weiss
Zoning Commission Case 12-07
December 6, 2012

1. Good evening, Chairman Hood and members of the Commission. My name is Andrew Weiss, and I am the Executive Vice-President of The Trump Organization, the designated preferred developer for this site.
2. I have only a few brief points to make tonight:
 - a. We would like to thank the Office of Planning (OP) for moving forward with the zoning on the site, and to thank the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for its thorough report.
 - b. We are thrilled to be working on such a beautiful building, and such an important site. We understand that this hearing is only looking at the appropriateness of the zoning for the site itself, so we are not presenting any proposed designs.
 - c. However, we would indicate for the record that our plan is totally consistent with the proposed zoning and the Comprehensive Plan policies for the area. We expect to play an important role in animating the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, not only with a hotel, whose guests will provide vitality during the day, in the evenings and on weekends, but also with restaurants which we expect to offer sidewalk cafes on both the Pennsylvania Avenue and C Street frontages of the building, and possibly retail as well.
3. We also want to assure you that, although you are not reviewing plans for the building, we are participating in an extensive review process to assure the highest quality of design and use. I can provide a brief summary of where we are in that process, if you would like.
 - a. We and GSA have been actively engaged in the Section 106 consulting process, to address the protection of the historic resources. So far, no serious adverse impact has been identified.
 - b. In addition, we have been working with GSA, their contractor, DDOT and a variety of agencies and stakeholders in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment, which has not indicated any adverse impacts at this point.
 - c. The Trump Organization also plans to use Historic Preservation Tax Credits in the redevelopment of the building. As such, we are committed to working with the National Park Service in complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, which require a strict adherence to protect and enhance the historic character of this beautiful building.

- d. We also will be subject to detailed review by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, as well as the District's Historic Preservation Office, all of whom are Consulting Parties in the current 106 process, along with the DC Preservation League, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, the Internal Revenue Service (our neighbor), and the Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation.
4. In short, we plan to deliver a project which will be a credit to the District of Columbia and an excellent neighbor to the National Mall, and we thank you for your role in providing the zoning for this project.