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December 22, 2015

Attn: Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **Support for Zoning Commission Case No. 13-09 – Commons at Stanton Square – Community Service Center and Residential Project**

Dear Chairman Hood:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Commons at Stanton Square. As a lifelong resident of Ward 8, former State Board of Education Representative, and a staunch advocate of Ward 8's children, families, and communities, I believe that the project will be of tremendous benefit to the community. We are experiencing some great difficulties with some of the poorest and struggling residents and communities in Washington DC. While I believe that the government has a responsibility to create bridges for people to get on their feet, I don't believe they should do it alone. Martha's table has a proven track record of feeling in the gap and being a tremendous asset to the community.

Though Martha's Table's headquarters is currently in Ward 1, the organization has already established a positive presence in Ward 8. Martha's table has a free Joyful Food Markets held in Ward 8 elementary schools. I found out about the program while visiting DC Scholars at Stanton Elementary one Saturday morning and it really encouraged me to see the work they were doing. On Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE they have a Martha's Outfitters that also provides emergency clothing assistance for residents in need. In 2016, it is my understanding that Martha's Table will begin working with Ward 8 youth at Moten Elementary and Thurgood Marshall HS. The organization will provide much-needed, high-quality after school programming and is committed to working with organizations and individuals who are already rooted here in Ward 8 to ensure the most sustainable impact. The residents and I will work closely with them to ensure they are honoring their word as they have been known to do. The fact that Martha's Table will be bringing its headquarters, in addition to its early childhood programming, nutrition and wellness services, and after-school programming to Ward 8, shows a true commitment to the future of the Ward and I am proud to support the work of this organization and will volunteer my time wherever I can.

For the many reasons outlined above, I strongly support the Commons at Stanton Square project. Thank you for your attention to my support of this application.

Sincerely,



Trayon White

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.13-09
EXHIBIT NO.36