

Good Afternoon, Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission.

My name is Rashida Brown and I am a resident of Ward 1. I live on Irving Street in North West Washington, DC My property sits northwest of the McMillan Reservoir (also known as the Parkview) I am here today to express my support for McMillan redevelopment project and master plan submitted by the Vision McMillan Partners (Jair Lynch, EYA and Trammell Crow)

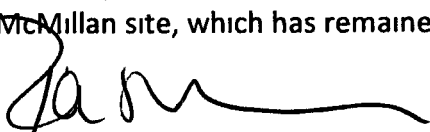
I've attended community meetings facilitated by the VMP and appreciated the level of community engagement involved in this project Over the past few years, the McMillan Partners have done an excellent job of reaching out to our community in a respectful and meaningful way They worked with us in numerous community meetings, salons and conversations They learned from our comments and developed a vision and plan that best suits the area. This consequently led to a consensus-based plan after a comprehensive master planning process with members of the community

I'm pleased that the plan offers an 8-acre park, which will be one of the largest and well designed public park spaces in the District of Columbia On the South Service Court, there will be a 17,000 square foot community center with a pool, fitness center and multi-purpose rooms with views of the preserved underground cell City parks and recreation centers offer countless benefits to residents fortunate enough to have them within their communities The end result could lead to a stronger, healthier and unified community The plan's newly developed housing structures blend well with the site's existing historic landmarks and the fabric of buildings' design for commercial use

At least 20 percent of housing units on the redeveloped McMillan site will be affordable to households making 50-80 percent of the area median income This would help leverage the City's agenda to increase affordable housing and make it accessible to those who need it the most The Center for Housing Policy indicates that older Americans are more likely than young adults to spend more than half of their income on housing The demand for affordable housing, especially in the District, continues to increase Therefore, I'm pleased that the plan addresses the unique needs of our seniors Low income housing tax credits and Affordable Housing Trust Funds will support a separate area for eligible seniors ages 55 and up Extending affordable housing to our seniors is critical, especially at a time when our baby boomers are starting to make up a significant portion of our aging population

I believe the final product will attract individuals of all generations and bring us together as a community In addition to being receptive to the numerous community benefits that this plan has to offer, residents and visitors will want to be educated about the importance of the innovative sand filtration approach and the history behind it

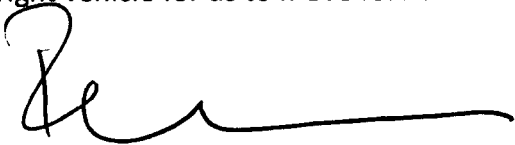
I truly appreciate that the acres of green space remain an integral part of this plan It treats the park as a building, which clearly articulates that this space is a critical centerpiece among its various components The innovative park space and its special features would breathe life into the McMillan site, which has remained stagnant for years and unfortunately, continues to be



underutilized The park, along with the community center, playgrounds, healing garden and water features properly correlate with the plan's intent for historic preservation of the silos and site in general

Most of all, I appreciate that the plan responds to the community's needs, promoting job creation, affordable housing and access to health care and high-quality produce. Because this plan is transformative and incredibly comprehensive, I anticipate that it would foster a safer, sustainable and healthier environment to live, work and play Its core principles are centered on a special commitment to enhancing the viability and spirit of our community Historic preservation and economic development should go hand in hand with this project They should be interconnected and help us thrive as a whole

Therefore, I urge the Commission to move forward and approve these plans The site desperately needs to be revitalized and restored Much thought, creativity, time and commitment helped this plan evolve into what it is today Discussions about the McMillan property have taken place over 20 years, and still nothing has materialized The VMP plan is the right vehicle for us to move forward Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that tapers to the right.