

**Case #13-14 (Vision McMillan Partners LLC and the District of Columbia—First Stage and Consolidated PUD and Related Map Amendment at 2501 First Street, NW (Square 3128, Lot 800).**

**Testimony of Claire Carlin, Brookland Resident at 910 Girard St NE, 20017**

Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission,

Thank you for your time this evening, my name is Claire Carlin, and I am homeowner in Ward 5 and have lived on Girard Street, in Brookland, just northeast of the McMillan site for the past seven years. **I am here today speaking in support of the VMP plan for the site.** I believe the project offers tremendous opportunity to both the community and the residents of our city

I have only known the site from what I can see driving and biking by, as a closed, fenced off, former industrial site. I have a great appreciation for its historical value, but also want to see it expand beyond something that was “formerly great” Its function in aiding good health through filtered water is symbolic of what I see as a great opportunity in the current development plans

Many supporters have talked about their excitement and relief about the benefit of a major grocery store on the site within walking distance of their homes and beautiful public spaces. I agree these will be welcome amenities. I also appreciate that affordable housing is to be included. Especially compelling to me is the planned healthcare building on the site, directly adjacent to the campuses of Washington Hospital Center, Children’s National Medical Center, and the VA Medical Center

Having the healthcare building on the site across from those existing medical facilities would help create what the development team calls a “Medical District.” As you well know, hospitals are major area employers and health care a significant part of our local and national economy. I think it is smart planning on the part of our civic leaders and private sector partners to seek ways to support and grow the health care economy. As the adjacent hospitals need more space for research and care, let’s keep that in DC

The new healthcare building with brand new state of the art facilities and technology, as well as all of the amenities on the full site will attract the top medical personnel and allow for new opportunities for collaboration, research, and care. This medical facility will contribute to the thousands of new permanent jobs to be created, another huge benefit to residents of the city

More immediately, the VMP team has already made the commitment to hire locally and pay competitive wages, including compliance with CBE policy, First Source hiring, and has offered to dedicate additional funds to recruit, train, and employ Ward 5 residents. I have read that the VMP team is willing to commit in the community benefits agreement to spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to be directed toward training, apprenticeships and job fairs for both the construction and the permanent healthcare and retail jobs generated by the new site

To me, this demonstrates an honest pledge to work and support the community not just in the short term with the development-related jobs, and for years to come the health care jobs. As a member of my community who cares strongly about workforce development and job preparation, I encourage our civic leaders including the Mayor, the City Council, agency heads and their staffs to prioritize this kind of workforce development That includes the opportunity that we have here at the McMillan site

I want to thank you again for allowing me the time to talk about just some of the benefits that I believe redevelopment at the McMillan site with the VMP plan will bring I truly hope that you will approve the PUD for McMillan today Have a great evening

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. B. E.' with a stylized, cursive font.

5/13/14