

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I, Akosoa McFadgion, write this letter in support of the EDENS Union Market project to build a theater above the existing Union Market structure

I have been a member of the Ivy City/ Northeast community for 13 years. My husband and I lived on Trinidad Avenue for a couple of years before we moved to Rhode Island Ave NE in 2003. The move had everything to do with feeling unsafe and the inaccessibility of fun activities for families. Fast forward to 2012 and changes began to take place in the Florida Ave Marketplace. I must admit, I was skeptical. I didn't know if the new property owners/developers would cater toward the growing Caucasian members of the community and neglect the interest of African-Americans who were long-time members of the community. Would items be over-priced? Would the new market sell items that I, as a wife, mom, and African-American woman have no connection to or interest in buying? Would the sense of family in the market be totally erased??

To my pleasure and surprise I was wrong. The members of the EDENS family have been just that to my family ..a family. I attended one community meeting and from that point on, members of the EDENS Company made intentional efforts to connect with us. We have enjoyed being special guests at a number of drive-in movie events. On two occasions, I connected with a staff member to host a drive-in movie party for my daughter and son and the EDENS staff was very supportive and excited to "host" our parties. The array of events keeps my husband and me looking for the next opportunity for date night!

I am so excited about the new theater! My family and I absolutely LOVE going to the movies! Currently we have to go to Potomac Yard because the environment at Gallery Place is more for party-goers and Potomac Yard provides a family-like environment. I believe EDENS will provide a balance and it will be right in my backyard! Union Market provides a space for both the urban, hip, party-goer and the moms looking for a place to have fun with their family. I feel like I can go with our without the kids! I don't feel that way at Gallery Place. I feel it serves one type of customer-someone looking for a night out on the town.

The relationship between EDENS and my family is personable and secure. However, what has blessed me the most is that on top of our family relationship, they reached out to determine how they could support my church, New Samaritan. I was surprised because many developers build in a community and assume members of the community want certain perks or support. On the contrary, EDENS reached out a number of times to *ask* what they could do to support the church community. They offered ideas but deferred to us to identify what needs we had that they could possibly meet. Over the past few years, EDENS has been very supportive to my

church and, I believe that the relationship will continue to grow! The new addition will provide the opportunity for EDENS to expand the options in partnership.

Sincerely,

 01/05/15