



LEDROIT PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

January 31, 2015

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support and additional comments for Z.C. Case 11-15D (Campus Plan Amendment, Howard University Central Campus) and companion case Z.C. Case 14-21 (Sherman Avenue Apartments - Consolidated PUD and Related Map Amendment)

Commissioners:

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the LeDroit Park Civic Association on January 27, 2015, the Association voted to support the proposed PUD (Z.C. Case 14-21) and Campus Plan Amendment (Z.C. Case 11-15D) for the proposed project at Sherman Avenue and Barry Place NW. Eleven members voted in favor of the resolution, while five opposed it.

Ongoing Concerns

The Association then voted unanimously to request a meeting with Howard University leadership to discuss **two ongoing concerns the Zoning Commission acknowledged in its Findings of Fact when it approved the Campus Plan (Z.C. Order 11-15)** on January 9, 2012.

Specifically, Section 20 of the Commission's Findings mentions the Mary Church Terrell House, which is a vacant, blighted¹ National Historic Landmark that Howard University owns at 326 T Street NW. The Commission order stated that the building "is undergoing restoration activities as funding becomes available," and that "the University indicated that it continues to seek funding to complete the restoration of the building." Neighborhood leaders intend to ask University leadership **why the house remains boarded-up and deteriorating more than three years after the Zoning Commission order.**

Secondly, Section 20 of the Commission's Findings also mentions the Walter Washington House, a vacant house that Howard University owns at 408-410 T Street NW. The Commission order stated, "The University intends to renovate and

¹ Though the house is not being taxed as blighted property, it is boarded up, which is one element of the definition of blighted property according to DCMR § 42-3131.05.



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stabilize [the house] for potential use as a University Guest House.” Neighborhood leaders intend to ask University leadership **why the house remains vacant more than three years after the Zoning Commission order.**

Ms. Maybelle Bennett, Howard University’s communications director, has done an exemplary job updating and informing the Association of the University’s development plans. Howard University recently inaugurated two splendid residence halls just north of the neighborhood and is nearing completion of its top-class Interdisciplinary Research Building. We are happy to see the University’s commitment to multimillion-dollar capital investments, but we also hope to highlight the importance of the Mary Church Terrell House and Walter Washington House.

Sincerely,

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