

April 8, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Chairman Anthony Hood
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Letter in Support of Case No. 15-16

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

I am submitting this letter to express my support for the above-referenced application for the mixed-use development proposed at 4th and Rhode Island Avenue. The project is a positive addition to the community and it will bring neighborhood serving retail such as a gym, sit-down restaurant and grocery store.

As the District of Columbia continues to grow, the area around the Rhode Island Avenue Metrorail Station is one of the next areas that will see an influx of investment to meet this demand. The proposed plans for the redevelopment of the Rhode Island Avenue Shopping Center ensure that this growth is well-managed, respectful of the existing adjacent neighborhoods and provides the city with a more livable/walkable community given its proximity to a transit hub.

In addition to bringing much needed retail, the project will also improve the Metropolitan Branch Trail by making it less isolated and incorporating a park next to it. The open space in the project will allow for activities and events in the community that currently are not possible, such as outdoor movie nights and community races. Whereas the existing retail center is secluded from the community, the proposed project will make it a more active part of the neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Keith Sellars, President & CEO
Washington, DC Economic Partnership