

**ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ZONING COMMISSION ORDER NO. 16-09**  
**Z.C. Case No. 16-09**  
**1200 3rd Street LLC**  
**Consolidated PUD and PUD-Related Map Amendment @ 1200 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NE**  
**Square 747, Lot 8**

Pursuant to notice, the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia (“Commission”) held a public hearing on November 3, 2016, to consider an application from 1200 3rd Street LLC (“Applicant”) for review and approval of a consolidated planned unit development (“PUD”) and PUD-related map amendment for Lot 8 in Square 747 (“Property”). The application proposes a mixed-use development consisting of retail, residential and lodging uses (the “Project”). The Commission considered the application pursuant to Chapters 24 and 30 and § 102 of the D.C. Zoning Regulations, Title 11 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (“DCMR”).<sup>1</sup> The public hearings were conducted in accordance with the provisions of 11 DCMR § 3022. For the reasons stated below, the Commission hereby approves the application with conditions.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

**Application, Parties, and Hearing**

1. The project site consists of Lot 8 in Square 747 and contains approximately 106,139 square feet of land area. (Exhibit 2)
2. The Property immediately abuts the railroad tracks to its west and is currently improved with a large warehouse and surface parking lot. The Property is located within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) 6C and is zoned C-M-3. (Exhibit 2)
3. On April 19, 2016, the Applicant submitted an application to the Commission for the review and approval of a PUD and PUD-related map amendment to rezone property located in the C-M-3 Zone District to the C-3-C Zone District. (Exhibit 2)
4. On June 2, 2016, the Office of Planning submitted a setdown report recommending a public hearing be held on the application. It requested additional information on items prior to the public hearing: (Exhibit 12)
  - Demonstrate, through a commitment to PDR or related uses on the ground floor, that the proposed development would further the PDR related objectives and land use direction of the Comprehensive Plan and the NoMA Vision Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 24 and all other provisions of Title 11 DCMR were repealed on September 6, 2016. Chapter 24 was replaced by Chapter 3 of Subtitle 11-X. However, because this application was set down for hearing prior to that date, the Commission’s approval was based upon the standards set forth in Chapter 24.

- Refine the proposal for inclusionary zoning to warrant the request for a concentration of IZ units.
  - The design should achieve a greater LEED equivalent rating.
5. On June 13, 2016, the Zoning Commission set the application down for a public hearing, supporting the Office of Planning's request for additional information prior to the public hearing.
  6. The Applicant filed its pre-hearing statement on July 27, 2016, including responses to the Office of Planning's and Zoning Commission's comments above. (Exhibits 14 and 15)
  7. Notice of the public hearing was published in the D.C. Register on September 2, 2016 and was mailed to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions ("ANC") 6C and 5D and to owners within 200 feet of the Property on August 25, 2016. (Exhibits 17, 18, 19).
  8. A public hearing was held on November 3, 2016, during which the Applicant gave its presentation and responded to questions. The Applicant proffered, and the Zoning Commission accepted, Shalom Baranes, as an expert in architecture, Daniel Van Pelt as an expert in transportation engineering, and Trini Rodriguez as an expert in landscape architecture. (November 3 Transcript, p. 8)
  9. Union Market Neighbors ("UMN") filed a request for party status citing concerns over the impact of the project on quality of life. Union Market Neighbors' request was deficient: it did not authorize anyone to speak on its behalf, did not provide information on the structure of the organization, did not specify the property affected, and it did not distinguish how its members would be more uniquely affected by the development than the general public. (November 3 Transcript, pp. 6-7; Exhibit 25)
  10. The Zoning Commission took up UMN's request for party status as a preliminary issue. UMN did not attend the hearing and was not available to clarify its submission. The Commission denied UMN's request for party status on the grounds that it chose not to participate in the hearing and on the basis that the request was deficient. (November 3 Transcript, p. 7)
  11. UMN rescinded its request for party status while the public hearing was underway. (Exhibit 43)
  12. Tony Goodman, the Single Member District representative with ANC 6C, testified in support of the application on behalf of the ANC. (November 3 Transcript, p. 106)
  13. No parties, other than the ANC, spoke in support or opposition to the application.

14. Cheryl Cort of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, testified in support of the application. (November 3 Transcript, p. 111)
15. ANC 6C voted in support of the application and testified in support of the application at the public hearing. (Exhibit 23)
16. Over 100 letters in support of the application were submitted into the record. (Exhibit 30-33)
17. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commission closed the record except for the Applicant's post-hearing submission and proposed order as well as responses to the Applicant's post-hearing submission from OP, DDOT, and both ANCs. The Commission took proposed action to approve the application and requested additional information prior to taking final action on the application. The Commission requested additional information regarding:
  - a. Additional penthouse details;
  - b. Signage plan;
  - c. Additional information on the affordable housing proffer;
  - d. Additional information on the proposed phasing plan;
  - e. Additional information on the proposed materials;
  - f. First Source agreement.
18. At the close of the public hearing on November 3, 2016, the Zoning Commission took proposed action to approve the application by a vote of 4 to 0. (November 3 Transcript, p. 117)
19. The proposed action of the Commission was referred to the National Capital Planning Commission ("NCPC") as required by the District of Columbia Home Rule Act on November 7, 2016. NCPC, by delegated action dated \_\_\_\_\_, found that the proposed PUD would not adversely affect the federal establishment or other identified federal interests in the National Capital and would not be inconsistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.
20. On November 23, the Applicant submitted its list of final proffered public benefits of the PUD and draft conditions, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 2403.16 - 2403.18.
21. On November 3, 2016, upon the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, as seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Zoning Commission took **PROPOSED ACTION** to **APPROVE** the application at its public meeting by a vote of **4-0-0** (Anthony J. Hood, Robert E. Miller, Peter G. May, and Michael G. Turnbull to approve; Third Mayoral Appointee position vacant, not voting).

22. On \_\_\_\_\_, upon the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, as seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Zoning Commission took **FINAL ACTION** to **APPROVE** the application at its public meeting by a vote of **4-0-0** (Anthony J. Hood, Robert E. Miller, Peter G. May, and Michael G. Turnbull to approve; Third Mayoral Appointee position vacant, not voting).

## THE MERITS OF THE APPLICATION

### Description of Property and Surrounding Areas

23. The PUD Site is located in the northeast quadrant of the District of Columbia. It is bounded by M Street NE to the south, Florida Avenue NE to the north, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE to the east, and railroad tracks to the west. The Property is triangular in shape, with its narrowest frontage along Florida Avenue. (Exhibit 2)
24. It is in Single Member District 6C06 of ANC 6C in Ward 6. It is considered a part of the NoMA neighborhood and is located just south of the Union Market neighborhood, which is north of Florida Avenue. The NoMA-Gallaudet U Metro station is directly to the west, across the railroad tracks. (Exhibit 2)
25. The Property is currently improved with an approximately 40 foot tall warehouse and a surface parking lot used by the Central Armature Works. The warehouse does not have windows for the first twenty feet of building height and incorporates windows only at the roofline. For pedestrians walking along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, there is no view into the building, only a view of sheet metal and a cinder block façade; the pedestrian experience is further degraded by a barbed wire fence lining a portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The sidewalk does not extend for the length of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between M Street and Florida Avenue; it is cut off by a dirt road used by Amtrak to access their railroad tracks. The west side of the Property is dedicated to surface parking and truck storage. In sum, the Property does not currently engage pedestrian traffic or encourage interaction with the community. (Exhibit 2)
26. Other challenging features of the Property include the easements that encumber it. Amtrak and D.C. Water both have easements across the Property, which must be accommodated in any future development. Amtrak maintains a number of high voltage electrical cables along its tracks that necessitate a 15 foot setback for the entire length of the western façade.<sup>2</sup> Amtrak also has a permanent easement across the site (east-west) to access the rail bed, which must be accommodated in the Project. D.C. Water has a below grade easement in the former N Street right-of-way that requires a clearance of at least 25 feet and must be at least 25 feet wide. These are significant features and greatly complicate the building design. (Exhibit 2)

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<sup>2</sup> A ten foot setback is required from the power lines, per OSHA and an additional five feet is required for new construction.

27. The surrounding area is mostly a mix of industrial, commercial, and institutional uses. To the north of Florida Avenue is the Union Market neighborhood, which is historically industrial but is currently in different stages of redevelopment. To the south of the Project is the former Uline Arena, which has been converted to a REI retailer and office space. Directly east of the Project, between N Street and Florida Avenue, a mixed-use residential building is planned.<sup>3</sup> Across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the east and just south of N Street is another planned mixed-use development with hotel, office, retail, and residential uses.<sup>4</sup> Finally, another mixed-use residential development was approved for the parcel of land to the east of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and just north of M Street.<sup>5</sup> (Exhibit 2)
28. The immediately surrounding blocks contain primarily a mix of industrial and commercial uses, but new developments are planned throughout, particularly in the Union Market neighborhood, where several new projects are pending. To the west, across the railroad tracks, is the heart of NoMA, which includes high-rise office buildings, apartment buildings, hotels, and the NoMA-Gallaudet U. Metrorail station. Further to the east, the neighborhood is primarily residential with two- and three-story townhouses and flats. Gallaudet University, a large institutional anchor in the community, is located to the northeast of the Property. Further to the south and southeast of the Property, the neighborhood is primarily residential with two- and three-story townhouses and flats. (Exhibit 2)
29. The immediate neighborhood includes a mixture of zones. The properties immediately surrounding the Property are located in the C-M-1 or C-M-3 Zone Districts. The Properties to the east and north, which are going through an entitlement process, have either rezoned or are seeking to rezone their properties to the C-3-C Zone District. The Uline Arena redevelopment was pursued as a matter-of-right, retaining the existing C-M-3 and C-M-1 zoning. The NoMA neighborhood west of the railroad tracks is located in the C-3-C Zone District. Residential properties further from the Property are zoned primarily R-4. (Exhibit 2)

### **The Project**

30. The Project is comprised of five primary parts: the podium, the northern residential building, the southern residential building, the hotel, and open spaces, each of which is described in more detail below. (Exhibit 2)
31. **Podium:** Given the physical challenges of the site, including its proximity to the railroad tracks, its triangular shape and its grade changes, the podium affords design opportunities that would not otherwise exist at the ground floor. The podium, including covered but pedestrian accessible space, covers approximately 96% of the lot and is 14-22 feet in

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<sup>3</sup> ZC Case No. 15-22

<sup>4</sup> ZC Case No. 15-28

<sup>5</sup> ZC Case No. 14-19

- height, which provides the base of the building the height needed to elevate bedroom and hotel windows above the retaining wall required alongside the railroad tracks. (Exhibit 2)
32. The podium includes over approximately 700 linear feet of retail frontage along both M and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The retail frontage is broken intermittently by residential or hotel entrances, service exitways and the Metro plaza, described in more detail below. The retail facades are broken down into “frames” that vary in material, fenestration and articulation. Multiple retailers may be located within each frame or a single retailer may occupy more than one frame. The frames exhibit a unique design based on the retailer, which will customize it for its own purposes. (Exhibit 2)
  33. The Project includes a Metro plaza above the former N Street right-of-way. The plaza is 30 feet tall and 70 feet wide and consists of 6,000 square feet of gross floor area. The plaza cuts through the entire width of the site before terminating at the train tracks’ retaining wall, allowing access between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the future Metro tunnel, which will stretch below the railroad tracks to the NoMA-Gallaudet U Station to the west. The plaza affords direct access for the neighboring community to the Metro tunnel, via the Applicant’s private property. Not only is the plaza a convenience for the community but it is also a visual point of interest for passersby. The Project incorporates artwork throughout the plaza to create a visually exciting and comfortable space. An acrylic sound guard at the western edge of the plaza will buffer the space from noise and to allow views of train activity. The sound guard runs for the length of the building; however, only the portion at the face of the plaza is clear. (Exhibit 2)
  34. A portion of the Metro plaza is used periodically for Amtrak vehicles to access the tracks. Amtrak will cross the plaza to access a ramp located on the western edge of the podium, adjacent to the planned Metro tunnel for access. It is expected that Amtrak will utilize this ramp approximately four times per day. Visual cues (either bollards, a change in material or pattern, or the use of a curb) are incorporated into the design to alert pedestrians that it is a shared space. In addition, no backing-up vehicular maneuvers take place in the Metro plaza, which further minimizes the potential for vehicular/pedestrian conflicts. (Exhibit 2)
  35. Access to loading and parking for the Project is made via the podium. The Project utilizes a single curbcut for its parking and loading that is located in the southwestern corner of the Property at a signalized intersection. All passenger vehicles enter the garage and proceed to the two lower levels of the garage, where approximately 300 spaces are reserved. (Exhibit 2)
  36. Loading for the entire Project occurs from the single curbcut on M Street. Loading is on the first level of the garage, where three berths at 30 feet deep are provided. Service corridors serving each of the three buildings are easily accessible from the loading area, making it an ideal location for loading. Finally, all truck maneuvers are accommodated within the garage space and do not require any back-in maneuvers from M Street. As a

part of this Project, the Applicant will reconfigure the traffic signal at the curb cut, as well as install a separate bike signal for the cycle track that will be located on the south side of M Street. The Applicant will continue to coordinate with DDOT regarding the final design of the curbcut and the driveway to the Project. (Exhibits 2, 22, 36)

37. **Northern Residential Building:** The northern residential building is the largest of the three buildings. In addition to the retail uses in the podium, the northern residential building consists of approximately 450 residential units. The building is 120 feet tall and includes approximately 410,000 square feet of residential use. The mass of the building occupies the entirety of the northern portion of the Property, from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the railroad tracks. The break at the southern end of the building coincides with the view corridor of Patterson Street to the west, which creates a visual connection with the NoMA neighborhood west of the railroad tracks, while also visually establishing open space consistent with the street grid through the site. (Exhibit 2)
38. The residential building is bifurcated on the first three levels by the Metro plaza. The parcel to the north of the Metro plaza has its own separate entrance that can be used to access the lower floors of the building. There are two levels of retail uses, one potentially below grade and one at grade, which give the building a strong presence on Florida Avenue. The building is set back 15 feet from Florida Avenue for a height of approximately 33 feet in order to improve the retail experience. This expands the sidewalk space, making for more comfortable pedestrian maneuvers along Florida Avenue, which would otherwise be limited to the existing width of the sidewalk at six feet. The two parts of the floor plate will unite at the fourth level. (Exhibit 2)
39. The building's exterior is approximately 50% glass and 50% solid wall surface. The majority of the solid wall surfaces are brick – light gray blended brick at levels four and up and dark gray blended brick below level four. The N Street right-of-way, which previously bisected the northern end of the site, is formally expressed by the Metro plaza's open space at the lower three levels. Above that space, a change of color and pattern in the building's exterior marks the width of the former N Street right-of-way. On 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, a light gray metal and glazed armature flanks the right-of-way. The inset zone between the darker and lighter metal and glass armatures is clad in an orange brick and modulated with overscaled openings and stacked/paired balconies. (Exhibit 2)
40. **Southern Residential Building:** The southern residential building is located in the southeast corner of the Project and abuts 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the east, the hotel to the west, the northern residential building to the north and M Street to the south. The building is 120 feet tall and includes approximately 175,000 square feet of residential use. The building's exterior is approximately 60% glass and 40% solid wall surface. The primary solid wall surfaces are made up of vertically corrugated metal panels in varying shades of dark gray. Smooth, lighter gray panels are employed in the recesses. The building's aesthetic plays with the proportions of the traditional industrial window, which features a

grid-like array of horizontal and vertical mullions and small glass panes. By scaling up this traditional window to contemporary residential dimensions, the southern residential building recalls industrial style but exemplifies modern architecture. (Exhibit 2)

41. **Hotel:** The hotel is located to the west of the southern residential building, north of M Street, east of the railroad tracks and south of the northern residential building. It includes approximately 200 rooms and 130,000 square feet of space. Similar to the other two buildings, the hotel is 120 feet tall. The building's exterior is approximately 50% glass and 50% solid wall surface. The solid wall surfaces on the west (track) façade are marked by composite concrete panels in varying shades of brown and gray. From a distance, these subtle color variations produce an abstract patchwork of vertically stacked panels. The solid wall surfaces of the east (courtyard) façade are constituted by a precast concrete framework infilled with composite wood panels tiered in three level assemblies. Again, these subtle color and texture variations produce an abstract patchwork enhancing this building's interior facade. (Exhibit 2)
42. **Open Spaces:** The industrial history of the site is reflected in the landscape through repetition, pattern, conveyance, graphics, style, and a muted industrial color palette. The Project provides a significant amount of attention to its open spaces. Open spaces of varying sizes, shapes and purposes are incorporated throughout the site. The most significant open space is the Metro plaza, included in the design of the northern residential building (also discussed above in relation to the podium). The Metro plaza will provide access for residents east of the railroad tracks to the NoMA-Gallaudet U Metrorail station via a planned tunnel connection to be constructed by WMATA. This will facilitate use of the Metrorail station for residents in the community, as well as those wishing to visit the community. The plaza space will not be "dead" space, rather at 30 feet tall, will be open, dramatic and vibrant. The space will include works of art to provide visual interest and will even incorporate the railroad tracks themselves as a point of interest through the use of an acrylic sound screen. The space is meant to be a passive gathering space that can be enjoyed by more than just those utilizing Metro. (Exhibit 2)
43. The Metro plaza is a mostly covered hardscape plaza that is flanked on the north and south sides by retail and on the west by the elevated railway system. The plaza is designed to accommodate extended outdoor retail opportunities such as outdoor dining adjacent to the retail spaces. An access drive for Amtrak maintenance vehicles is embedded into the plaza design through a change in paving materials in the covered plaza and through the use of a mountable curb on 3rd Street with a creative installation of linear pavers and planting bands within the tree amenity zone and the tenant zone to discourage other vehicular traffic from entering the plaza. Accommodations for the potential future Metro pedestrian tunnel connection under the train tracks to the New York Avenue Metro Station are being provided. The path to the tunnel is defined by special paving and paving patterns and includes an accessible path. (Exhibit 2)



44. The interim condition plan for the period before the Metro tunnel is constructed includes pop-up retail spaces and movable furniture located at the western end of the plaza that will activate and draw people into the space. (Exhibit 2)
45. The open space plans incorporate DeafSpace principles to pair deaf experiences with the built environment through the thoughtful analysis of space and proximity, sensory reach, mobility and proximity, light and color, and acoustics. (Exhibit 2)
46. The Project creates open spaces through building setbacks. On the southern edge of the Property, the podium is set back to create a triangle plaza, or M Street Plaza, that corresponds with the open space provided in connection with the REI project to the south of M Street. The M Street Plaza is a unique urban pocket park where people meet, mingle and connect with each other. This plaza blurs the lines between what is public and what is private. Terraced levels defined by monumental stairs allow for free flowing circulation through the space while points for access are provided to each level for individuals with disabilities. The prominent staircases allow for seating and gathering opportunities in the plaza. A focal feature in the form of a water scrim will begin in a linear water trough cantilevered from the second level terrace ending in a pool, or scrim, of water in the plaza. The scrim, water trough and a gantry crane element on the second level visually connect the plaza and the second level open spaces. The plaza is animated by the retail on the northern edge, the entrance to the hotel and restaurant, and all of the outdoor dining associated with those establishments. The edges of the plaza are lined with large timber benches. (Exhibit 2)
47. The M Street Plaza wraps around the building to the corner of 3rd Street via open space provided by pulling back the corner of the southern residential building from the property line. Widening the sidewalk space at this location creates a more pedestrian friendly experience and encourages walking along the retail uses on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Project widens the sidewalk in the middle of its 3<sup>rd</sup> Street frontage between M Street and the proposed Metro plaza to create visual interest in the street level façade by introducing movement to it, as well as to create more opportunities for retail uses to engage with pedestrians and the public realm to make the entire project more open and inviting to the public. (Exhibit 2)
48. In coordination with properties currently being developed on the east side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the west side of the street has a distribution that will include a two foot transition zone including curb, a six foot tree amenity zone, a 10 foot sidewalk zone, and a 10 foot tenant zone. Trees, low impact development basins, permeable pavers, and city standard streetlights, trash receptacles, and bike racks are integrated along the length of the street. The tenant zone is activated by plantings and opportunities for interactive sculpture. (Exhibit 2)
49. Finally, the Project sets back from the lot line a distance of 15 feet along Florida Avenue for a height of approximately 33 feet. Again, this was done to improve the safety and

experience of the pedestrian. The existing sidewalk on Florida Avenue is narrow (six feet wide), creating discomfort with pedestrians as they are pushed close to a busy roadway. Widening the sidewalk provides a more comfortable space for pedestrians, which eases the current path between the Property and the NoMA-Gallaudet U. Metrorail Station. (Exhibit 2)

50. The Project incorporates a significant amount of open private space, including its second story terrace and its rooftop amenity space. The second level terrace delicately balances the needs, functions and levels of access for the three different uses adjacent to the courtyard which are the hotel, the southern residential building and the northern residential building. A restaurant dining area or outdoor function area on the southwest corner of the terrace provides activity and vibrance to both the second level and the plaza below. Located at the eastern edge of the dining area or function area is the main focal feature of the design, a gantry crane that ties the second level terrace to the M Street Plaza at street level below. A gantry crane that currently operates inside the Central Armature Works was the inspiration for this feature. (Exhibit 2)
51. The southern residential building features a great lawn and grilling stations. The great lawn is separated from the restaurant dining area or outdoor function space by the gantry crane water feature. The northern residential building has outdoor amenity spaces on this level. They include a multi-purpose lawn, seating areas, grilling stations and a video screen. The lush landscape lush features groves of trees providing buffers and visual separation between the buildings and the amenity spaces. (Exhibit 2)
52. Each building offers rooftop amenities as well. It is anticipated that the hotel will have a small pool for guests, various seating areas and a restaurant/bar with views of the city. The southern residential building has lounge seating, a grilling bar, and an outdoor fireplace all in an intimate setting. The northern residential building takes advantage of the views to the south to showcase a generous pool and outdoor amenity terrace with strong connections to the indoor amenity space. Features that may be included in this amenity terrace are grilling stations, pergolas, televisions, and fire elements. (Exhibit 2)
53. A composite of extensive and intensive green roof systems will be created for the roof and penthouse levels of each building. These green roof systems reduce storm water runoff, conserve water, mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce noise, create habitat for birds, insects and butterflies, provide great aesthetic value and even aide in fire protection. The planting design will utilize native and adaptive plants throughout the project. In storm water filtration and bio-retention planters, plants will be specifically selected to thrive in those locations and to perform the filtration function. (Exhibit 2)

**PUD Flexibility Requested**

54. Section 411.4(c): The Applicant seeks special exception relief to allow a restaurant in the hotel penthouse. (Exhibit 22)

55. Section 411.9: The Applicant seeks relief to allow varying heights for the habitable penthouse space. (Exhibit 22)
56. Section 775.5: Though no side yard is required, the Applicant is providing a 15 foot side yard along the railroad tracks. If a side yard is provided, it must be a minimum of 20 feet wide; accordingly, the Applicant seeks relief from this requirement. (Exhibit 22)
57. Section 2115.9: The Applicant is providing 60 valet parking spaces for the hotel use; however, the project as a whole is not considered a “commercial” project and is not permitted to include valet parking spaces in its parking supply. The Applicant seeks relief from this section so that the hotel valet parking spaces are included in the proposed parking supply. (Exhibit 22)
58. Section 2201.1: The Applicant seeks variance relief from the requirement to provide a 55 foot loading berth for the residential uses. (Exhibit 22)
59. Section 2605: The Applicant is exploring the potential for establishing the southern residential building as a condominium building. In the event it does so, it seeks flexibility to locate all of the affordable units available to households with an annual income no greater than 50% AMI in the northern (rental) residential building. (Exhibit 22)
60. In addition to the relief required from the Zoning Regulations, the Applicant seeks flexibility in the implementation of the Project, including: (Exhibit 22)
  - a. To vary the location and design of all interior components, including but not limited to partitions, structural slabs, doors, hallways, columns, signage, stairways, mechanical rooms, elevators, and toilet rooms, provided that the variations do not change the exterior configuration or appearance of the structure;
  - b. To vary final selection of the exterior materials within the color ranges and general material types approved, based on availability at the time of construction;
  - c. To vary the location of the affordable units so long as their location is generally consistent with the locations noted in Exhibit 46, in that they must remain consistent with the requirements of Section 2605.6. The proffered levels of affordable housing shall not be modified.
  - d. To make minor refinements to exterior details, dimensions, and locations, including belt courses, sills, bases, cornices, railings, balconies, trim, frames, mullions, spandrels, or any other changes to comply with Construction Codes or that are otherwise necessary to obtain a final building permit, or are needed to address the structural, mechanical, or operational needs of the building uses or systems;

- e. To vary the exterior design of the retail space per the specifications of the retailer.
- f. To vary the proposed residential unit range and hotel room range by 10%.
- g. To vary the number of proposed parking spaces by 10% and to refine the parking layout in an effort to create a more efficient plan.
- h. To extend the footprint of the garage toward the southern lot line so long as it remains within the lot lines and below grade along both M and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The extension of the garage will not increase the proposed parking beyond the flexibility noted above.
- i. To provide approximately 10,000 square feet of additional retail space below grade in the northern residential building along Florida Avenue and approximately 7,000 square feet on the second floor of the northern residential building along Florida Avenue. It also seeks flexibility to provide potential mezzanine space within retail spaces, per tenant specifications.
- j. To adjust details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street streetscape after coordination with other stakeholders and relevant District agencies.
- k. To modify the penthouse design for the hotel per specifications of the final operator. The parameters of the massing (height, density and set back) will not change and no additional relief is permitted as a part of this flexibility.
- l. To reduce or eliminate the Florida Avenue projection in the event the sidewalk is not widened, per current DDOT plans.
- m. To modify the location of the structural wall supporting the Amtrak track bed and the design of the area immediately adjacent, based on the final engineering of the foundation system developed in coordination with Amtrak.
- n. To provide interim, “pop-up” retailers and movable fixtures in the Metro plaza.
- o. Phasing: The Applicant anticipates constructing the Project in one phase; however, it would like the flexibility to construct it in two phases should market conditions change. The proposed phasing would allow the Applicant to apply for a building permit for the northern residential building, and corresponding portion of the podium, within two years of approval of this PUD and to apply for a building permit for the southern residential building, hotel, and corresponding podium within 4 years of the approval of this PUD.

**Project Amenities and Public Benefits**

61. As detailed in the Applicant's testimony and written submissions, the proposed PUD will provide the following project amenities and public benefits: (Exhibits 2, 22, 37 and 46)

a. Exemplary Urban Design, Architecture, and Open Spaces

a. The Project effectively incorporates public spaces into the site plan: whether it is through building setbacks, a Metro plaza or an enhanced streetscape, the site plan has been thoughtfully crafted. The Applicant will coordinate with other stakeholders to establish a uniform and pedestrian-friendly streetscape along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. In addition to these improvements, the retail spaces that are proposed establish a rhythmic pattern along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street that varies with each façade. The streetwall is not monotonous and uniform; rather it incorporates varying materials and unique articulations to create an active pedestrian experience. It also opens view corridors along both N and Patterson Streets that do not currently exist and emphasizes the openness of the site. In addition to the public spaces, the Project includes generous courtyards on the second level to be enjoyed by residents, guests and patrons of the hotel.

b. The overall massing of the Project was designed with specific thought to its context. It utilizes a podium to address the challenges posed by the neighboring railroad tracks. It also utilizes a soundwall along the western façade and double glazed windows to minimize the impacts of sound from the railroad. The height of the building helps to establish the uses adjacent to the railroad tracks, which might otherwise compete with the site. Each building was designed as an independent building and incorporates its own unique design and materials, all of which are of high quality.

c. Finally, the Project incorporates several pieces of art, including a mural wall in the Metro plaza and a water feature in the southern plaza. The art engages visitors and creates an inviting and attractive environment.

b. Site Planning and Efficient Land Utilization The Project transforms an underutilized warehouse and surface parking lot into a mixed-use development that brings numerous advantages to the community, including access to a future Metrorail pedestrian tunnel, connecting the east and west sides of the railroad tracks. Its location helps infill sites that bridge the gap between NoMA and the Florida Avenue Market, creating a continuous community comprised of a true mix of uses.

c. Housing and Affordable Housing. The Project will create approximately 650 new residential units, including 50 affordable units, on a site where no residential use currently exists. Approximately half of these units are reserved for households with an annual income no greater than 50% of the Area Median Income.

d. Effective and Safe Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Transportation Demand Management Measures.

- a. The Project utilizes a single curbcut for access to its parking and loading. All vehicular maneuvers take place within the garage and do not require any back-up maneuvers over public space. By limiting all vehicular access to a single curbcut and by eliminating back-up maneuvers, the Project reduces significantly the likelihood of a pedestrian/vehicle conflict. The Project also incorporates a new traffic signal at the south side of the M Street and Delaware intersection to ensure that there are no vehicle/bicycle conflicts as bikes cross over to the cycle track on the southern side of M Street.
- b. One of the more prominent features of the Project is the Metro plaza, which facilitates connections with the NoMA-Gallaudet U. Metrorail Station. The plaza directly responds to this objective as it facilitates a direct connection with the Metrorail Station, whereas, the community east of the railroad tracks is otherwise forced to use Florida Avenue or M Street for Metro access.
- e. Environmental Benefits: The project is designed to achieve a minimum of 56 LEED points. In addition, the Applicant integrates at least 6,000 square feet of solar panels onsite.
- f. Employment and Training Opportunities: The Applicant has entered into a First Source Agreement with the Department of Employment Services.
- g. Uses of Special Value: The Applicant is offering the following benefits and amenities as uses of special value, in addition to those items referenced above:
  - (i) The project incorporates several art features throughout the site for public enjoyment. The art engages visitors and helps to create an inviting environment. Several of the art installations will meet the community's expressed interest for playable/active art for children. The Applicant shall design and install, to a cost of up to \$250,000, the following art:
    - A gantry crane/industrial art element in the M Street Plaza inspired by the family run business that is currently operating on the site and has been based in the District for 101 years.
    - An artistic water feature that complements the gantry crane/industrial art element describe above and actives the M Street Plaza.
    - At least three pieces of playable or interactive art in the public space along the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street side of the project, to be maintained by the Applicant on an ongoing basis.

- (ii) The Applicant will contribute \$100,000 to an endowment fund, managed by the Project's owners association in partnership with the NoMA BID, to finance rotating art and murals in the Metro plaza. The \$100,000 fund contemplates an average of \$20,000 spent every three years on a new mural (on either the WMATA wall at the back of the Metro Plaza or on the ceiling of the Metro plaza) or sculpture in the Metro plaza, resulting in rotating artwork for 15 years after completion of the project. The type, location and design of artwork will be determined by a five person panel comprised of the property owners association (three members), the NoMA BID (one member) and ANC 6C (one member).
- (iii) The Applicant will set aside a minimum of 7,000 square feet of space for maker uses within the Project. Maker uses are defined as "Production, distribution, or repair of goods, including accessory sale of related product; uses encompassed within the Arts, Design, and Creation Use Category as currently defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle B § 200.2, including an Art Incubator and Artist Live Work Space, as currently defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle B § 100.2, but not including a museum, theatre, or gallery as a principal use; production and/or distribution of food or beverages and the accessory sale or on-site consumption of the related food and beverage; design related uses as defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle U Section 700.6(e)." These spaces shall secure a certificate of occupancy specifying a PDR use and the square footage allocated to such use. Prior to issuance of any certificate of occupancy for the building, the Applicant shall provide an update on the status of fulfilling its commitment to provide maker space. If the commitment has not yet been fulfilled, the Applicant shall demonstrate where the balance of the commitment may be accommodated within the building.

### **Compliance with PUD Standards**

- 62. In evaluating a PUD application, the Commission must "judge, balance, and reconcile the relative value of project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and any potential adverse effects." The Commission finds that the development incentives for the height, density, use and flexibility are appropriate and fully justified by the additional public benefits and project amenities proffered by the Applicant. The Commission finds that the Applicant has satisfied its burden of proof under the Zoning Regulations regarding the requested flexibility from the Zoning Regulations and satisfaction of the PUD standards and guidelines set forth in the Applicant's statement, the DDOT report, and the OP report.
- 63. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant and its experts as well as OP, the ANC, and DDOT, and finds that the superior design, site planning, including the Metro plaza and other public spaces, streetscape improvements, housing and affordable housing, are uses of special value, and all constitute acceptable project amenities and public benefits.

64. The Commission finds that the PUD as a whole is acceptable in all proffered categories of public benefits and project amenities. The proposed benefits and amenities are superior as they relate to urban design, landscaping, housing and affordable housing, effective and safe transportation access, and uses of special value to the neighborhood and the District as a whole.
65. The Commission finds that the character, scale, massing, mix of uses and design of the PUD are appropriate, and finds that the site plan is consistent with the intent and purposes of the PUD process to encourage high quality developments that provide public benefits. Specifically, the Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant and the Applicant's architectural and transportation planning witnesses that the PUD represents an efficient and economical redevelopment of a strategic and transit-oriented parcel neighboring a Metrorail station.
66. The Commission credits the testimony of OP and DDOT, and accepts the ANCs' report and testimony, noting that the PUD will provide benefits and amenities of substantial value to the community and the District commensurate with the additional height, density and mix of uses sought through the PUD process. The Commission notes that the proposed massing and mix of uses is consistent with the NoMA Vision Plan.
67. The Commission credits OP and DDOT's testimony that the impact of the PUD on the level of services will not be unacceptable.
  - a. DDOT assessed the potential safety and capacity impacts of the proposed action on the District's transportation network and proposed mitigations commensurate with the action. (Exhibit 27)
  - b. DDOT concluded that the Applicant's CTR utilized sound methodology; existing transit service should have capacity to accommodate future demand; the Applicant demonstrated that two intersections with deficient levels of service under the Future with Development scenario can be mitigated by restriping to include an exclusive left-turn lane on at least one approach: 1<sup>st</sup> and M Street NW (southbound 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE approach and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and L Street NE (westbound L Street NE approach); and that the Applicant's TDM plan is sufficient for the development and the Applicant has provided additional TDM elements to offset impacts to intersections throughout the study area that cannot be directly mitigated. (Exhibit 27)
  - c. OP noted that the Project is in keeping with the development magnitude envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan. (Exhibit 26)
68. The Applicant's CTR confirmed that the PUD will not have a detrimental impact to the surrounding transportation network. This is due in large part to the site's proximity to the Metrorail and the proposed transportation demand management plan. (Exhibit 22)



69. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant's traffic consultant, who submitted a comprehensive transportation review that concluded that the PUD would not have adverse effects due to traffic, parking, or loading impacts. The Applicant is providing a substantial TDM package, that DDOT supports, which will not only mitigate impacts from the project but generally improve existing conditions. Specifically, the Applicant will improve pedestrian circulation around the Property, encourage use of alternative modes of transportation, and minimize vehicular conflicts by reducing the number of curbcuts onsite. Any traffic, parking, or other transportation impacts of the PUD on the surrounding area are capable of being mitigated through the measures proposed by the Applicant and are acceptable given the quality of the public benefits of the PUD, particularly in light of the connection to Metro being proffered. (Exhibit 22)
70. The Commission acknowledges one of the environmental features of this Project is that it will involve remediating an existing brownfield and that the Applicant will remediate the contamination currently on the site and safeguard against future contamination. The DOEE has granted conditional approval of the Applicant's Voluntary Remediation Action Plan. The Commission supports efforts to remediate contaminated properties. (Exhibit 22)
71. The water and sanitary service usage resulting from the Project will have an inconsequential effect on the District's delivery systems. The site is currently served by all major utilities. The Project's proposed storm water management and erosion control plans will minimize impact on the adjacent properties and existing storm water systems. (Exhibit 2)

### **Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan**

72. The Project furthers the following Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Plan, as outlined and detailed in Chapter 2, the Framework Element: (Exhibit 12)
  - a. Change in the District of Columbia is both inevitable and desirable. The key is to manage change in ways that protect the positive aspects of life in the city and reduce negatives such as poverty, crime, and homelessness. 217.1
  - b. Redevelopment and infill opportunities along corridors and near transit stations will be an important component of reinvigorating and enhancing our neighborhoods. Development on such sites must not compromise the integrity of stable neighborhoods and must be designed to respect the broader community context. Adequate infrastructure capacity should be ensured as growth occurs. 217.6
  - c. Growth in the District benefits not only District residents, but the region as well. By accommodating a larger number of jobs and residents, we can create the

critical mass needed to support new services, sustain public transit, and improve regional environmental quality. 217.7

- d. The recent housing boom has triggered a crisis of affordability in the city, creating a hardship for many District residents and changing the character of neighborhoods. The preservation of existing affordable housing and the production of new affordable housing both are essential to avoid a deepening of racial and economic divides in the city. Affordable renter- and owner-occupied housing production and preservation is central to the idea of growing more inclusively. 218.3
  - e. Increased mobility can no longer be achieved simply by building more roads. The priority must be on investment in other forms of transportation, particularly transit. Mobility can be enhanced further by improving the connections between different transportation modes, improving traveler safety and security, and increasing system efficiency. 220.1
73. The PUD process is an avenue to transform the Property to a higher and better use that contributes to the surrounding community. Whereas the existing industrial use on-site is insular and detached from the community, the Project will integrate the parcel with the neighborhood and will facilitate connections with the broader community that do not currently exist. The PUD is aligned with many goals and objectives of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan, namely providing residential uses within the Central Washington Area Element and adjacent to Metro stations.
74. The Future Land Use Map (“FLUM”) includes the Property in the mixed-use Medium Density Residential/Production, Distribution and Repair land use category. The proposed rezoning is consistent with this as it facilitates the construction of a high-quality mixed-use project. The C-3-C Zone allows for a mix of uses, including residential uses, which would not be feasible under the existing zoning designation. The Project consists of a 5.25 FAR of residential uses, which is consistent with the medium density residential designation; and 1.4 FAR of hotel and retail uses, which is consistent with the PDR designation. The proposed height, density, and uses of the PUD is not inconsistent with this designation.
75. The context of the Project also speaks to the appropriateness of the proposed height and density. The Property immediately abuts railroad tracks to its west, which creates obvious challenges and necessitates raising the residential level above the railroad tracks. The podium allows for a vertical buffer between the residential use and the railroad tracks. The Project includes a podium that varies in height from 14 feet to 22 feet in order to create this differentiation. The entirety of the podium counts against the gross floor area of the site; yet, it functions as a new “grade” for the base of the Project. Whereas some of the podium uses would typically be located below-grade and would not have a FAR consequence, they do in this instance because it is located above grade.

76. The Office of Planning testified that reserving 7,000 square feet of area for PDR uses is consistent with the PDR designation of the site. The PDR designation also calls for tourism support uses, such as a hotel, which is reflected in the Project. (November 3 Transcript, p. 98)
77. The Generalized Policy Map (“GPM”) includes the Property in the Land Use Change Area category. This GPM category is described as follows: “Land Use Change Areas are areas where change to a different land use from what exists today is anticipated.” The Project converts an underutilized industrial site to a mixed-use development that engages and contributes to the community and is consistent with its GPM designation.
78. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant and OP regarding the compliance of the PUD with the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan. The development is fully consistent with and furthers the goals and policies in the map, citywide, and area elements of the plan. (Exhibits 2, 22, 37, 46)
  - a. The Commission finds that the proposed PUD is not inconsistent with the written elements of the Comprehensive Plan and promotes the policies of its Land Use, Transportation, Environmental, Housing, and Urban Design Citywide Elements and its Upper Northeast Area Element.
  - b. The project implements Land Use Element policies that encourage growth and revitalization on an underutilized site adjacent to a Metrorail station. Providing residential uses near a Metrorail station is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
  - c. The project implements Transportation Element policies that promote transit-oriented development and urban design improvements and discourages auto-centric practices. The PUD provides direct access to the Metrorail Station through the construction of the Metro plaza. Such a portal is a significant benefit to the community.
  - d. The project implements Housing Element policies that encourage expansion of the city’s supply of high-quality market-rate and affordable housing, including affordable housing units that provide deeper affordability limits. The expansion of residential uses is especially supported in the Central Washington Area.
  - e. The project implements Urban Design Element policies that call for enhancing the aesthetic appeal and visual character of areas around major thoroughfares. The PUD significantly improves an underutilized parcel of land along a key entrance to the City, the Amtrak railroad tracks. The PUD also enhances the streetscape along M and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets and Florida Avenue.

- f. The project advances several objectives of the Central Washington Area Element, including the development of residential uses, provision of hotel and hospitality services and the introduction of an overall mix of uses to create activity and interest.
79. The Commission credits the submissions of the Applicant and OP that the PUD is consistent with and furthers the goals of the NoMA Vision Plan. The Project provides a diverse mix of uses that creates a variety of options for living, working, shopping, recreation and culture. The Project design reflects a new standard of architecture and urban design that supports a lasting, competitive identity. Additionally, the Project: (Exhibits 2 and 12)
- a. Locates the greatest height and density near the NoMA Metro station;
  - b. Enhances connections to the Florida Avenue Market and strives for a synergy of uses in new project plans;
  - c. Ensures a strong art presence in streets and public spaces, to include visual artists in preliminary phases of projects, and to fund artist / underpass projects;
  - d. Encourages diversity of housing types, including live-work and flexible space for artists and artisans;
  - e. Works with WMATA to study connections to New York Avenue Metro Station, including pedestrian links between the Florida Avenue Market and the metro station; and
  - f. Encourages public art in streetscape design as part of the proposed public realm plan and in individual projects.

### **Agency Reports**

80. By report dated October 24, 2016, the Office of Planning recommended approval of the application. OP confirmed that the Project supports the written elements of the Comprehensive Plan and is not inconsistent with the Future Land Use and Generalized Policy maps of the Comprehensive Plan. OP also noted that the Project is consistent with the NoMA Vision Plan with its proposed height and density and mix of uses. (Exhibit 26)
81. OP concluded that the benefits and amenities were commensurate given the flexibility requested. (Exhibit 26)
82. OP recommended approval of the application subject to the following: (Exhibit 22 and November 3 Transcript, pp. 98)

- a. Provide a greater commitment to PDR, maker or related uses.
    - At the public hearing, however, OP testified that the proffered 7,000 square feet of PDR uses was adequate and consistent with the PDR designation. (November 3 Transcript, p. 98)
  - b. OP does not support the requested flexibility in the location of the PDR or maker uses.
    - At the public hearing, however, OP testified that it supported the requested flexibility. (November 3 Transcript, p. 98)
  - d. The design should achieve a greater LEED-equivalent rating.
    - At the public hearing, however, OP testified that it believed the proposed sustainability features were appropriate despite the fact the Applicant was not seeking certification at the LEED-Gold level. (November 3 Transcript, p. 99)
  - e. The applicant is proposing some significant art features for the project. Additional detail is needed to ensure that the community fully realizes this project benefit.
    - OP was satisfied with the level of information provided by the Applicant at the public hearing. (November 3 Transcript, p. 99)
  - f. The applicant should commit to LSDBE and First Source agreements, or provide a rationale for the lack of a commitment.
    - OP was satisfied that the Applicant agreed to enter into a First Source agreement with the Department of Employment Services. (November 3 Transcript, p. 99)
  - g. Provide details about the location and size of signage
83. By report dated October 24, 2016, DDOT noted its support of the application. DDOT noted that it had no objections to the PUD though it did expect continued coordination with the Applicant on public space issues, the final design of the curbcut on M Street, proposed loading, the final location of the Capital Bikeshare, and proposed restriping on 1<sup>st</sup> and L Streets. (Exhibit 27)
84. The Applicant will continue to coordinate with DDOT with respect to the following items: (Exhibit 27)
- a. Traffic signal and geometric modifications at M Street/Delaware Avenue/Site driveway
  - b. Final design of public space

- c. Loading Management Plan will limit truck size to 40 feet or less
- d. Re-striping at 1st Street/M Street NW and 2nd Street/L Street NE
- e. The location of the Capitol Bikeshare station
- f. The final location of the Florida Avenue curb line

### **Advisory Neighborhood Commission Reports**

- 85. ANC 6C submitted a letter in support of the application, authorizing Tony Goodman to testify at the hearing. The ANC voted unanimously, 4:0, to support the application and its proposed amenities, including affordable housing with reduced AMI requirements; a public plaza along M Street facing the Uline Arena; and creation of an accessway at N Street under the train racks providing better access to the Metro station. (Exhibit 23)
- 86. Mr. Goodman testified at the hearing that the application was a model case demonstrating how the PUD process can be done successfully. He further testified that this project responded to community needs and desires. (November 3 Transcript, p. 107)
- 87. Mr. Goodman noted that the Applicant undertook extensive public outreach and reached out to long term neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the Project. (November 3 Transcript, pp. 109-110)
- 88. Mr. Goodman testified that the UMN neither attended any public meetings on the Project nor reached out to him to discuss the Project or to voice any concerns. (November 3 Transcript, p. 110)

### **Parties in Support and in Opposition**

- 89. Other than the ANC, which was automatically a party to this application, there were no additional parties to this application, either in support or in opposition.

### **Persons and Organizations in Support or Opposition**

- 90. The Coalition for Smarter Growth submitted a letter in support of the application. The Coalition noted that it supported the Applicant's sustainability program and agreed that the LEED program does not accurately reflect the sustainable benefits of the Project. It also strongly supports the proposed connection to the future tunnel to the Metrorail station. (Exhibit 24)
- 91. Cheryl Cort testified in support of the application at the public hearing on behalf of the Coalition. She noted that the Project proposed a favorable parking ratio and incorporated transportation demand management strategies that mitigate the proposed density of the Project. (November 3 Transcript, p. 113)

92. Over 100 residents submitted letters in support of the application: 37 letters in support were submitted by immediate neighbors of the Project; 59 letters in support were submitted by neighbors living in the 20002 zip code; six letters in support were provided by others who live farther away from the Project. (Exhibits 30-33)

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Pursuant to Zoning Regulations, the PUD process is designed to encourage high-quality development that provides public benefits. (11 DCMR § 2400.1.) The overall goal of the PUD process is to permit flexibility of development and other incentives, provided that the PUD project “offers a commendable number of quality of public benefits, and that it protects and advances the public health, welfare, and convenience.” (11 DCMR § 2400.2.)
2. Under the PUD process of the Zoning Regulations, the Commission has the authority to consider the application as a consolidated PUD and it has the authority to approve a PUD-related map amendment. The Commission may impose development guidelines, conditions, and standards that may exceed or be less than the matter-of-right standards identified for height, density, lot occupancy, parking, loading, yards, or courts.
3. The Property meets the minimum area requirements of Chapter 24 of the Zoning Regulations.
4. Proper notice of the proposed PUD was provided in accordance with the requirements of the Zoning Regulations and as approved by the Zoning Commission.
5. The development of the PUD will implement the purposes of Chapter 24 of the Zoning Regulations to encourage well-planned developments that will offer a mix of uses with more attractive and efficient overall planning and design not achievable under matter-of-right standards. Here, the height, character, scale, massing, mix of uses, and design of the proposed PUD is appropriate. The proposed redevelopment of the Property, with a mix of residential, retail and lodging uses, capitalizes on the Property’s transit-oriented location and is compatible with citywide and area plans of the District of Columbia, including the NoMA Vision Plan.
6. The Commission has judged, balanced, and reconciled the relative value of the project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and any potential adverse effects, and concludes approval is warranted for the reasons detailed below.
7. The PUD complies with the applicable height and bulk standards of the Zoning Regulations and will not cause a significant adverse effect on any nearby properties. The residential, lodging and retail uses for this PUD are appropriate for the Property’s

location. The Project's height, bulk, and uses are consistent with the District's planning goals for the surrounding neighborhood.

8. The PUD provides superior features that benefit the surrounding neighborhood to a significantly greater extent than the matter-of-right development on the Property provides. The Commission finds that the urban design, site planning, public space improvements, efficient and safe transportation features and measures, housing and affordable housing, ground-floor retail uses, and uses of special value are all significant public benefits. A primary benefit of this Project is the Metro plaza, which will benefit the community significantly. The impact of the PUD is acceptable given the exceptional quality of the public benefits of the PUD.
9. The Commission notes that the impact of the PUD on the surrounding area and the operation of city services is not unacceptable. The Commission agrees with the conclusions of the Applicant's traffic expert and DDOT that the proposed PUD will not create adverse traffic, parking, loading or pedestrian impacts on the surrounding community nor will it create adverse impacts on the capacity of the road network. The application will be approved with conditions to ensure that any potential adverse effects on the surrounding area from the development will be mitigated.
10. Approval of the PUD is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission agrees with the determination of OP and finds that the proposed PUD is consistent with the Property's Medium Density Residential and PDR designations on the Future Land Use Map and furthers numerous goals and policies of the written elements of the Comprehensive Plan as well as other District planning goals for the immediate area, including the NoMA Vision Plan.
11. The Commission concludes that the proposed PUD is appropriate given the superior features of the PUD, the benefits and amenities provided through the PUD, the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, and other District of Columbia policies and objectives.
12. The PUD will promote the orderly development of the site in conformity with the entirety of the District of Columbia zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map of the District of Columbia.
13. The Applicant proposed improvements for the public space immediately abutting its property and while the Zoning Commission does not have jurisdiction over the development of public space, it supports the proposed improvements. It understands the Applicant will work with DDOT regarding the specific improvements to the public space.
14. The Commission notes UMN's submission into the record and states the following:



- (a) The District Department of Transportation analyzed the impacts of this Project and determined that any impacts of the Project will be mitigated by the Applicant's TDM strategies.
  - (b) Hotel use is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Central Washington Area Element and is not inconsistent with the PDR designation on the FLUM.
  - (c) The Applicant is coordinating with DOEE in the remediation of the site, which will improve present conditions on the site.
  - (d) LEED is not the only benchmark by which to measure the environmental sustainability of a site. The Project will provide access for an entire community to a Metro station, which promotes many principles of sustainability; it will voluntarily remediate a contaminated site and it will incorporate solar panels, all of which is above and beyond what is required.
15. The Commission is required under § 5 of the Office of Zoning Independence Act of 1990, effective September 20, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-163, D.C. Official Code § 6-623.04) to give great weight to the recommendations of OP in all zoning cases. The Commission carefully considered the OP reports and found OP's reasoning persuasive in recommending approval of the application.
16. The Commission is required under § 13(d) of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, effective March 26, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-21; D.C. Official Code § 1-309.10(d)) to give "great weight" to the issues and concerns raised in the written report of the affected ANC. The Commission carefully considered the positions of ANC 6C in support of approving the application and concur in its recommendation of approval. The Commission credits the ANC with understanding the needs and wants of the community and give weight to its testimony that the PUD responds to those needs and wants.
17. The Applicant is subject to compliance with D.C. Law 2-38, the Human Rights Act of 1977.

### **DECISION**

In consideration of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order, the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia **ORDERS APPROVAL** of the application for the review and approval of a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and PUD-related map amendment from the C-M-3 Zone District to the C-3-C Zone District for the Property for the mixed-use development described herein, subject to the following conditions:

#### **A. Project Development**

1. The Project will be developed in accordance with the architectural drawings submitted into the record as Exhibit 22, as modified by Exhibits 37 and 46 and the guidelines, conditions, and standards herein (collectively, the "Plans"). The Plans will incorporate:
  - a. Approximately 6,000 square feet of space in the Metro plaza;
  - b. The Applicant will record an easement in the land records prior to the issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the northern building to provide public access to the Metro plaza and to accommodate a connection to a future pedestrian tunnel to the NoMA-Gallaudet U Metro station.
  - c. Approximately 3,000 square feet of space for the M Street plaza; and
  - d. Approximately 500 square feet of space for the Florida Avenue plaza.
  
2. The Project will have flexibility from the following zoning requirements:
  - a. Section 411.4(c): special exception relief to allow a restaurant in the hotel penthouse.
  - b. Section 411.9: relief to allow varying heights for the habitable penthouse space.
  - c. Section 775.5: relief from the side yard requirement.
  - d. Section 2115.9: relief to allow include valet parking spaces in the proposed parking supply.
  - e. Section 2201.1: relief from the requirement to provide a 55 foot loading berth for the residential uses.
  - f. Section 2605: The Applicant is exploring the potential for establishing the southern residential building as a condominium building. In the event it does so, it seeks flexibility to locate all of the affordable units available to households with an annual income no greater than 50% AMI in the northern (rental) residential building.
  
18. The Applicant will have flexibility with the design of the PUD in the following areas:
  - a. To vary the location and design of all interior components, including but not limited to partitions, structural slabs, doors, hallways, columns, signage, stairways, mechanical rooms, elevators, and toilet rooms, provided that the variations do not change the exterior configuration or appearance of the structure;
  - b. To vary final selection of the exterior materials within the color ranges and general material types approved, based on availability at the time of construction;

- c. The Applicant requests flexibility to shift the location of the affordable units as the floor plans are refined so long as the proportion of affordable units to market rate units along the western property line remains the same and otherwise complies with the requirements of Section 2605. The proffered levels of affordable housing shall not be modified.
- d. To make minor refinements to exterior details, dimensions, and locations, including belt courses, sills, bases, cornices, railings, balconies, trim, frames, mullions, spandrels, or any other changes to comply with Construction Codes or that are otherwise necessary to obtain a final building permit, or are needed to address the structural, mechanical, or operational needs of the building uses or systems;
- e. To vary the exterior design of the retail space per the specifications of the retailer.
- f. To vary the proposed residential unit range and hotel room range by 10%.
- g. To vary the number of proposed parking spaces by 10% and to refine the parking layout in an effort to create a more efficient plan.
- h. To extend the footprint of the garage toward the southern lot line so long as it remains within the lot lines and below grade along both M and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The extension of the garage will not increase the proposed parking beyond the flexibility noted above.
- i. To provide approximately 10,000 square feet of additional retail space below grade in the northern residential building along Florida Avenue and approximately 7,000 square feet on the second floor of the northern residential building along Florida Avenue. It also seeks flexibility to provide potential mezzanine space within retail spaces, per tenant specifications.
- j. To adjust details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street streetscape upon coordination coordinate with other stakeholders and relevant District agencies.
- k. To provide interim, “pop-up” retailers and movable fixtures in the Metro plaza.
- l. To modify the penthouse design for the hotel per specifications of the final operator. The parameters of the massing (height, density and setback) will not change and no additional relief is permitted as a part of this flexibility.
- m. To reduce or eliminate the Florida Avenue projection in the event the sidewalk is not widened, per current DDOT plans.
- n. To modify the location of the structural wall supporting the Amtrak track bed and the design of the area immediately adjacent, based on the final engineering of the foundation system developed in coordination with Amtrak.

## **B. Transportation**

- 19. The Applicant shall abide by the terms of the loading management plan, which requires compliance with the following:
  - a. A loading dock manager will be designated by the building management.

- b. All loading, delivery, and trash collection operations will be required to use 40 foot trucks or less in length, and will be required to use the loading facilities internal to the project.
  - c. All loading, delivery, and trash collection activity will be required to utilize the building's internal service corridors to access the loading facilities, remaining on private property.
  - d. All residential move ins/move outs will be required to be scheduled in a manner that coordinates with retail tenant deliveries.
  - e. Trucks using the loading facilities will not be allowed to idle and must follow all District guidelines for heavy vehicle operation including but not limited to DCMR 20 – Chapter 9, Section 900 (Engine Idling), the regulations set forth in DDOT's Freight Management and Commercial Vehicle Operations document, and the primary access routes listed in the DDOT Truck and Bus Route System.
  - f. The dock manager will be responsible for disseminating DDOT's Freight Management and Commercial Vehicle Operations document to drivers as needed to encourage compliance with District laws and DDOT's truck routes. The dock manager will also post these documents in a prominent location within the service area.
  - g. Local to the site, service vehicle activity will be directed to use the routing shown in Exhibit 34 in the record. The goal is to minimize truck traffic in the neighborhood by having it utilize the shortest paths to/from Florida Avenue, a DDOT designated truck route.
20. The Applicant shall abide by the terms of the transportation demand management plan, which requires compliance with the following:
- a. The Applicant will exceed minimum zoning requirements for bicycle parking/storage facilities at the proposed development. This includes secure parking located on-site and short term bicycle parking around the perimeter of the site that exceed zoning requirements, as well as a bike service area.
  - b. The Applicant will unbundle the cost of residential parking from the cost of lease or purchase and charge a market rate for the area.
  - c. The Applicant will identify a TDM Leader (for planning, construction, and operations). There will be one TDM leader who will coordinate with the managers of the retail, residential, and hotel components of the development. The contact information for the TDM leader will be shared with goDCgo and DDOT. The TDM leader will work with goDCgo to receive free TDM marketing materials and guidance, as well as to enforce TDM measures within the development.

- d. The Applicant will provide TDM materials to new residents in the Residential Welcome Package materials. At a minimum, this package will include a Get Around Guide from goDCgo and info about bikesharing and carsharing.
- e. The Applicant will install Transportation Information Center Displays (electronic screens) within the residential, hotel, and office lobbies, containing real-time information related to local transportation alternatives.
- f. The Applicant will fund the installation of a new Capital Bikeshare station and one year of maintenance for the neighborhood.
- g. The Applicant will purchase ten electric bikes and install ten electric bike charging stations to be shared by residents and guests. Additionally, the Applicant will install ten publically accessible electric bike charging stations.
- h. The Applicant will devote six parking spaces for electric car charging stations.
- i. The Applicant will purchase 20 shopping carts for tenants to run daily errands and grocery shopping.

**D. Benefits and Amenities**

1. **Affordable Housing.** The Applicant will construct approximately 550,000 square feet of residential gross floor area. It will reserve 8% of the residential gross floor area, approximately 44,550 square feet, as affordable housing. At least 50% (approximately 22,275 square feet) of this set aside will be reserved for households with a median income no greater than 50% of the Area Median Income. The remainder of the affordable units will be reserved for households with an annual income no greater than 80% of the Area Median Income. The units reserved for households with an annual income no greater than 50% AMI may be located entirely in the Northern building if the Southern building is delivered as a condominium building. If the Southern building is delivered as a rental building, it will reserve 4% of the residential gross floor area for 50% AMI units and 4% of the residential gross floor area for 80% AMI units.

- a. The affordable housing will be provided in accordance with the following charts:

Northern Building (if southern building is delivered as a condominium)

<b>Residential Unit Type</b>	<b>Residential GFA / Percentage of Total</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Affordable Control Period</b>	<b>Affordable Unit Type*</b>
Total	392,185 sf/100%		Life of project	Rental
Market Rate	360,810 sf/92%	Market	Life of project	Rental
IZ	9,099 sf/2.3%	80% AMI	Life of project	Rental
IZ	22,275 sf/5.7%	50% AMI	Life of project	Rental

Southern Building (if delivered as a condominium)

<b>Residential Unit Type</b>	<b>Residential GFA / Percentage of</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Affordable Control</b>	<b>Affordable Unit Type</b>
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	<b>Total</b>		<b>Period</b>	
Total	164,689 sf/100%		Life of project	Condo
Market Rate	151,514 sf/92%	Market	Life of project	Condo
IZ	13,175 sf/8%	80% AMI	Life of project	Condo

Northern Building (if southern building is delivered as rental)

<b>Residential Unit Type</b>	<b>Residential GFA / Percentage of Total</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Affordable Control Period</b>	<b>Affordable Unit Type*</b>
Total	392,185 sf/100%		Life of project	Rental
Market Rate	360,810 sf/92%	Market	Life of project	Rental
IZ	15,687 sf/4%	80% AMI	Life of project	Rental
IZ	15,687 sf/4%	50% AMI	Life of project	Rental

Southern Building (if delivered as rental)

<b>Residential Unit Type</b>	<b>Residential GFA / Percentage of Total</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Affordable Control Period</b>	<b>Affordable Unit Type*</b>
Total	164,689 sf/100%		Life of project	Rental
Market Rate	151,514 sf/92%	Market	Life of project	Rental
IZ	6,588 sf/4%	80% AMI	Life of project	Rental
IZ	6,588 sf/4%	50% AMI	Life of project	Rental

- b. The affordable housing required as a result of providing specified habitable space in the penthouse will trigger affordable housing in accordance with the following chart.

Penthouse Requirements

<b>Pent-house</b>	<b>Resi. GFA</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Aff. Control Period</b>	<b>Aff. Unit Type*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Hotel</b>					
Habitable space triggering affordable	3,575 sf				IZ units will be located in northern residential

requirement					building
Affordable, (non-IZ requirement)	894 sf	50% AMI	20 years	Rental	
<b>Northern Building</b>					
Habitable space triggering IZ	5,161 sf				IZ units will be located in northern residential building
IZ requirement	413 sf	50% AMI	Life of project	Rental	
<b>Southern Building</b>					
Habitable space triggering IZ	3,805 sf				IZ units will be located in northern residential building, if southern building is a condominium
IZ requirement	304 sf	50% AMI	Life of project	Rental	

2. **Sustainability.** The Applicant will demonstrate that the Project has been designed to achieve at least 56 LEED (v. 2009) points prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for each structure. Evidence of satisfying this requirement will be provided in the form of an architect’s certification provided to the Zoning Administrator.
3. The Applicant will provide 6,000 square feet of solar panels on the Property. Evidence of satisfying this requirement will be provided prior to issuance of the final residential certificate of occupancy for the Project.
4. **PDR Uses.** The Applicant will set aside a minimum of 7,000 square feet of space for PDR or maker uses (“Required Uses”) within the Project. Required Uses are defined as “Production, distribution, or repair of goods, including accessory sale of related product; uses encompassed within the Arts, Design, and Creation Use Category as currently defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle B § 200.2, including an Art Incubator and Artist Live Work Space, as currently defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle B § 100.2, but not including a museum, theatre, or gallery as a principal use; production and/or distribution of food or beverages and the accessory sale or on-site consumption of the related food and beverage; design related uses as defined in 11 DCMR Subtitle U Section 700.6(e).” These spaces shall secure a certificate of occupancy specifying a PDR use and the square footage allocated to such use. Prior to issuance of any certificate of occupancy for the building, the Applicant shall provide an update on the status of fulfilling its commitment to provide maker space. If the commitment has not yet been fulfilled, the Applicant shall demonstrate where the balance of the commitment may be accommodated within the building.

5. **Art.** Prior to issuance of the final residential certificate of occupancy for the Project, the Applicant will install art in the public spaces of the project, at a cost of approximately \$250,000. The Applicant will be responsible for maintenance of the art pieces for the life of the project. The art pieces will include the following:
  - a. A gantry crane or similar industrial art element in the M Street Plaza, including an artistic water feature.
  - b. At least three pieces of playable or interactive art in the public space along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street side of the project.
6. The Applicant will contribute \$100,000 to an endowment fund, managed by the Project's owners association in partnership with the NoMA BID, to finance rotating art and murals in the Metro plaza. The contribution will be made prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the Northern building. The endowment will fund artwork, including murals and sculptures, which will rotate every 2-3 years for approximately 15 years upon issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Project. The type, location and design of artwork will be determined by a five person panel comprised of the property owners association (three members), the NoMA BID (one member) and ANC 6C (one member). The Applicant shall provide proof of funding an escrow account prior to issuance of the final residential certificate of occupancy for the Project.
7. **First Source.** The Applicant will execute a First Source Agreement with the Department of Employment Services. A copy of the agreement will be entered into the record prior to issuance of the final Order.
8. **Transit Incentives.** The Applicant shall provide the following transit incentives, some of which are simultaneously considered mitigation features of the Project, as described above in Conditions No. 18 and 19:
  - a. The Applicant will install a transit screen that is viewable by the public in the Metro plaza prior to the issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building.
  - b. Prior to the issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant will install a Capital Bikeshare station and maintain it for a period of one year, to the cost of up to \$100,000.
  - c. Prior to the issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant shall devote six parking spaces for electric car charging stations, at an estimated cost of \$60,000.



- d. Prior to issuance of the residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant shall purchase ten electric bikes from Riide, or similar company, and install ten electric bike charging stations for residents and hotel guests.
- e. Prior to issuance of the residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant shall install eight publically accessible electric bike charging stations.
- f. Prior to issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant will purchase 20 shopping carts for tenants to run daily errands and grocery shopping.
- g. Prior to issuance of a residential certificate of occupancy for the Northern building, the Applicant will install a new traffic signal at the garage entrance located at the intersection of Delaware Avenue and M Street.

**E. Miscellaneous**

1. The Office of Zoning shall not release the record of this case to the Zoning Regulations Division of DCRA and no building permit shall be issued for the Project until the Applicant has recorded a covenant in the land records of the District of Columbia, between the Applicant and the District of Columbia, that is satisfactory to the Office of the Attorney General and the Zoning Division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Such covenant shall bind the Applicant and all successors in title to construct and use the property in accordance with this order, or amendment thereof by the Commission. The Applicant shall file a certified copy of the covenant with the records of the Office of Zoning.
2. The approval shall be valid for a period of two years from the effective date of this Order. Within such time, an application must be filed for a building permit for the Northern Residential Building. Construction of the Northern Residential Building must begin within three years of the effective date of this Order. An application for the building permit for the Southern Residential Building and Hotel must be filed within 4 years of the effective date of this Order. Construction on the Southern Residential Building and Hotel must begin within five years of the effective date of this Order.
3. In accordance with the DC Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, DC Official Code §§ 2-1401 01 et al (Act), the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, familial responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex

discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

For this reason stated above, the Commission concludes that the Applicant has met its burden, and it is hereby **ORDERED** that the application be **GRANTED**.

On November 3, 2016, upon the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, as seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Zoning Commission took **PROPOSED ACTION** to **APPROVE** the application at its public meeting by a vote of **4-0-0** (Anthony J. Hood, Robert E. Miller, Peter G. May, and Michael G. Turnbull to approve; Third Mayoral Appointee position vacant, not voting).

On \_\_\_\_\_, upon the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, as seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Zoning Commission took **FINAL ACTION** to **APPROVE** the application at its public meeting by a vote of **4-0-0** (Anthony J. Hood, Robert E. Miller, Peter G. May, and Michael G. Turnbull to approve; Third Mayoral Appointee position vacant, not voting).

In accordance with the provisions of 11-Z DCMR § 604.9, this Order shall become final and effective upon publication in the *DC Register*; that is on \_\_\_\_\_.

In accordance with the provisions of § 3028.8 of the Zoning Regulations, this Order shall become final and effective upon publication in the *D.C. Register* on \_\_\_\_\_.

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**ANTHONY J. HOOD**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**ZONING COMMISSION**

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**SARA A. BARDIN**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF ZONING**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I sent a copy of the foregoing document to the following addresses on November 28, 2016, by first class mail:

Matt Jesick  
Office of Planning  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024  
(By Hand Delivery)

Jonathan Rogers  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street SE, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
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ANC 6C  
P.O. Box 77876  
Washington, DC 20013-7787

ANC 6C06  
c/o Tony Goodman  
1152 4th Street NE  
Washington, DC

ANC 5D  
c/o Peta-Gay Lewis  
1868 Corcoran Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

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Christine Roddy