



October 24, 2016

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Support for Planned Unit Development Applications 16-11 and 16-12 for the Park Morton New Communities Initiative

Dear Chairman Hood and Fellow Commissioners:

As the President & CEO of the Development Corporation of Columbia Heights (DCCH), I am writing to urge you to approve the Planned Unit Development applications for both the Bruce Monroe Community Park and the Park Morton Public Housing site, or applications 16-11 and 16-12, respectively.

The Development Corporation of Columbia Heights is a private, nonprofit community development corporation whose purpose is to further the economic development of the Washington, DC area. DCCH seeks to achieve this by increasing commercial, business, and housing developments with a particular focus on opportunities for socially or economically disadvantaged persons. With this mission, DCCH maintains an acute interest in the opportunities made available for underrepresented persons.

The redevelopment of Park Morton has been long overdue and is necessary in order to improve the living conditions and long-term opportunities for existing Park Morton residents. I support the use of Bruce Monroe as the Build-First site as a way to keep existing Park Morton residents in the community during and beyond the redevelopment effort. The proposal to create a mix of housing types at various income levels and maintain green space across both sites creates a development that is truly inclusive for this community. Additionally, because the development provides housing opportunities for both low and moderate-income earners up to 60% AMI, we can ensure that individuals and families from all socio-economic backgrounds can have an opportunity to live in this vibrant community.

I am excited about the opportunities that exist along the Georgia Avenue corridor and in the Park View community to help improve the lives of its residents, as better quality housing creates cleaner streets and safer neighborhoods. Additionally, ensuring that all residents in our community have access to affordable housing opportunities means that those residents will be able to enjoy businesses in their neighborhood and help support economic development in their community.

I urge you and your fellow commissioners to vote to support Park View Community Partners' applications so that this project can move forward with expediency.

Sincerely,

André Byers,
President & CEO

2604 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW. WASHINGTON, DC 20001 .TEL.:202.483.4986 FAX:202.483.4982