

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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Office of Real Estate Development  
and Capital Asset Management

November 15, 2016

Chairman Anthony Hood  
D.C. Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Suite 200 S  
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: ZC Cases 16-11 and 16-12 Park Morton New  
Communities Initiative

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

Howard University is writing in support of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) applications for the Bruce Monroe Community Park and the Park Morton Public Housing in ZC cases 16-11 and 16-12.

Howard University is a federally chartered, private, coeducational, non-sectarian historically black university located within the Ward 1 community in close proximity of both the Bruce Monroe Park and the Park Morton housing development. The Park Morton development has been the subject of discussions about its redevelopment for many years, at least as far back as its candidacy for redevelopment as a Hope VI site. A number of our students and some faculty and staff live in this neighborhood and will be affected by development there.

The University is very familiar with the existing living conditions at Park Morton, and our Center for Urban Progress has had a presence there for many years. The Center has: facilitated a needs assessment as part of the New Communities program; operated a workforce development program; conducted computer training and operated an open computer lab for residents; and run a Spirit Energy and Technology program for youngsters in that location.

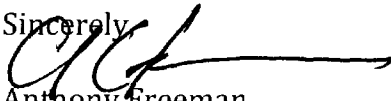
The University supports the use of Bruce Monroe as the Build First site, which will allow current Park Morton residents to stay in the community during and after redevelopment. The opportunity to accommodate households with a variety of incomes and maintain green space at both locations are important ingredients in any urban environment and are commensurate with the University's desire to preserve neighborhood diversity and open space amenities.



The implementation of Howard's own campus master plan is intended to contribute to the vitality of Georgia Avenue and we welcome similar efforts in this direction.

We hope you will support Park View Community Partners' applications so that this project can move forward with expediency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Freeman  
Real Estate Executive