

John T. Epting Director jepting@goulstonstorrs.com (202) 721-1108 (tel)

October 23, 2017

## VIA IZIS, EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Anthony Hood, Chairman District of Columbia Zoning Commission 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Suite 200-S Washington, DC 20001

Re:

Z.C. Case No. 16-29 – Columbian Quarter – Application for Approval of a First-Stage Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map Amendment for Lots 97, 1025-1031, 1036, and 1037 in Square 5860 and Lot 91 in Square 5861 (the "Property") – Request for Postponement of Public Hearing

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

On December 13, 2016, Poplar Point RBBR, LLC, now doing business as Columbian Quarter Holdings (the "Applicant"), filed an application seeking first-stage approval of a Planned Unit Development ("PUD") and related Zoning Map Amendment to rezone the Property to the MU-9 Zone District for the development of a mixed use project containing residential, office, and retail uses across multiple buildings (collectively, the "Project"). On February 27, 2017, the Zoning Commission set down the above-referenced case for a public hearing. On July 5, 2017, the Applicant submitted an initial statement, illustrations, views and plans and other supplemental pages. On October 6, 2017, the Applicant submitted supplemental materials, and on October 11, 2017, the Applicant submitted further supplemental materials to correct omissions in the October 6, 2017 submission. A public hearing on the Project is currently scheduled for October 26, 2017.

The Applicant hereby requests that the public hearing be postponed until the next available hearing date in order to allow the Applicant and the community additional time to work together to find resolution to outstanding issues. The Applicant has communicated extensively throughout the Project planning with both ANC 8A and ANC 8C. The Applicant made presentations to ANC 8A on December 6, 2016 and September 5, 2017 and to ANC 8C on November 2, 2016 and September 13, 2017. The Applicant also attended the Executive Committee Meetings of ANC 8A on May 15, 2017 and October 16, 2017 and of ANC 8C on October 12, 2016 and August 31, 2017. Additionally, the Applicant attended ANC 8A06 SMD meetings on December 8, 2016 and April 14, 2017 and ANC 8C01 SMD meetings on December 8, 2016, February 9, 2016, and May 26, 2017. The Applicant will continue to work with ANC 8A and ANC 8C to address the issues raised in the respective ANC reports and will host an

additional meeting with the combined ANC 8A and ANC 8C at the RISE Demonstration Center on November 18, 2017.

In response to the report filed by Mary Cuthbert, Chair of ANC 8C, the Applicant has filed and received approval from DCRA for a Trade Name Registration for "Columbian Quarter Holdings" in order to establish that "Poplar Point RBBR, LLC" will henceforth be commonly known as "Columbian Quarter Holdings". This name registration further confirms the naming and branding exercise which the Applicant undertook last year at the request of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and which resulted in the development of the name "Columbian Quarter".

The Applicant respectfully requests that the public hearing be postponed until the next available hearing date on December 4, 2017. The Applicant notes that the Property is a significant component of the District of Columbia's proposal for an Anacostia Waterfront Amazon Second Headquarters. Additionally, the Property has been considered as a new headquarters for the Department of Labor, and the Applicant is pursuing a lease with the Securities and Exchange Commission to have the Property serve as its headquarters. Any one of these uses of the property would bring thousands of new jobs to the area, and any significant delays in the public hearing process may impede the Property's potential development and consideration as either the Amazon, Department of Labor, or Securities and Exchange Commission headquarters.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (202) 721-1108. Thank you for your attention to this request.

John T. Epting

## Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that copies of the foregoing document will be delivered by first-class mail, email, or hand delivery to the following addresses on October 23, 2017.

Matthew Jesick
Office of Planning
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Suite 650E
Washington, DC 20024
matthew.jesick@dc.gov

Jonathan Rogers
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE, Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20003
Jonathan.Rogers2@dc.gov

ANC 8A (6 copies) c/o Troy Prestwood – ANC 8A Chair 2317 16<sup>th</sup> Street SE Unit 101 Washington, DC 20020

Greta Fuller – ANC SMD 8A06 1352 Maple View Place SE Washington, DC 20020

ANC 8C (6 copies) c/o Mary J. Cuthbert – ANC 8C Chair 629 Alabama Avenue SE Washington, DC 20032

Karen Lucas – ANC SMD 8C01 252 Newcomb Street SE Washington, DC 20032

John Γ. Eptin