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October 23, 2017

Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **Support for Zoning Commission Case No. 16-29 – Columbian Quarter – First- Stage
Planned Unit Development**

Dear Chairman Hood:

On October 26, 2017, the Ward 8 non-profit United Nation of Individuals Fighting Impossibilities (UNIFI) owned and operated MBE received a presentation from representatives of Columbian Quarter Holdings regarding the proposed Columbian Quarter PUD project. In my role as the President of the UNIFI, I am writing to express support of the PUD and Zoning Map Amendment application.

The UNIFI believes that the residential portion of the project, which includes approximately 700 residential units within two multi-family buildings, provides the proper mix of neighborhood serving retail and rental housing with both affordable and market-rate units directly adjacent to the new WMATA Anacostia Metro Station entrance plaza. Further, we believe the office portion, which includes approximately 1.6 million square feet within three buildings, provides tremendous economic opportunity for both Construction and permanent office jobs.

The UNIFI also strongly supports the benefits and amenities package for the project, and the positive impacts it will have on our community. The package will include infrastructure upgrades like the new Howard Road SE streetscape, enhanced WMATA Anacostia Metro Station entrance plaza, and other neighborhood transportation improvements. In addition, the package includes transit-based housing, greater affordable housing, neighborhood serving retail amenities, sustainability features, and workforce development training, internship and apprenticeship opportunities that has been discussed with the broad community.

UNIFI commends the applicant for its outreach to the community and its responsiveness to comments that were raised about the project. UNIFI wants to recognize the applicant and its members for their commitment to serving the needs of residents of Ward 8 as part of this project.

For these reasons, the UNIFI strongly supports the PUD and Zoning Map Amendment application of Columbian Quarter Holdings. Thank you for your attention to our comments on this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Stephenson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amanda Stephenson
President