

March 26th, 2019

Anthony Hood, Chairman  
D.C. Zoning Commission  
441 Fourth Street N.W., Suite 200S  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
[zcsubmissions@dc.gov](mailto:zcsubmissions@dc.gov)

**Re: Z.C. Case 17-21 – As You Like It LLC Application for a Planned Unit Development (“PUD”) and Related Zoning Map Amendment**

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express my support for Erkiletian Development Company’s and Shakespeare Theatre Company’s application to the Zoning Commission for the proposed PUD and related Zoning Map Amendment for a mixed-use residential and cultural project (the “**Project**”) at 501 I Street SW (Square 492, Lot 52) (the “**Property**”).

I live in the Southwest community at 240 M St SW and in full disclosure I work for Shakespeare as well in the Production department. As a member of the community, it is most important to me that the Property be developed in a manner that is appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood and provide a Project that benefits the community as a whole. I am excited about the Project and the opportunities it presents for the Southwest area along with the benefits for Shakespeare.

I appreciate the Project’s overall design and uses and believe they will complement the existing neighborhood. I also appreciate the applicant’s efforts to work with the community and revise the Project and the benefits based on community input.

After a discussion with senior member of my company and someone very familiar with the Project, I am supportive of the Project, particularly due to the benefits Shakespeare is providing to the community. I have been very skeptical of my company’s efforts to integrate into the community instead of forcing their way in, but I feel as though Shakespeare is now taking the right steps to remedy that and become a member of our community. These commitments will allow our community to benefit from Shakespeare’s addition to our neighborhood.

The work Shakespeare is planning for the school is the most important addition for the community. Shakespeare is also focused on benefiting the schools and residents in Southwest by providing gift certificates for PTA raffles, priority invitations for educators, scholarships and discounted tuition to classes, and class tours of Shakespeare facilities. Having taken concerns about shadows on the soccer field and construction dust into account, Shakespeare seems very committed to keeping our children safe and thriving. Also, the fact that the Project also commits to programming for the local schools including District Shakespeare and productions of children-friendly versions of Shakespeare’s classics is a big plus for our community as well.

The benefits committed to as part of the Project will allow the Southwest community, especially its children, to fully appreciate Shakespeare’s works. These benefits show the applicant’s commitment to the community, and the Project, with these benefits, will provide an exciting opportunity for the Southwest neighborhood. In its current iteration, I am proud to support the Project and the proposed benefits and request the Zoning Commission approve the Project.

Sincerely, Lauren Lee

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.17-21  
EXHIBIT NO.48