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A 21st Century
Community
Learning Center

beaconhouse

Where Learning Has A Home

January 25, 2019

Mr. Anthony Hood Chairman
Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Support for Hanover 8th Street Planned Unit Development (ZC Case No. 18-21)

Dear Chairman Hood & Fellow Commissioners:

As CEO/Executive Director of Beacon House, I am writing to state our support for the Hanover 8th Street Planned Unit Development project.

For over 25 years, Beacon House has provided children in Ward 5's Edgewood neighborhood with a safe, nurturing, and life-expanding community in which to increase their academic achievement, discover their talents, and grow into healthy adults who achieve their greatest potential. Our programs focus on closing the education achievement gap - and thus improving the economic trajectories - of children in Ward 5 for whom generational poverty is most persistent. More than half of the participants in our afterschool education programs live in the Edgewood Commons affordable housing community, where the average annual household income is approximately \$12,000 and only 56% of parents have completed high school. Considering that the strongest predictors of a child's educational attainment and income are parental education levels and earnings, we work with children who are at a great disadvantage.

Hanover 8th Street's provision of affordable housing options to individuals and families from all socio-economic backgrounds helps to ensure that residents of Ward 5 enjoy opportunities to benefit from the neighborhood's convenience, connectivity and amenities regardless of their income level.

Hanover Company, lead developer for the project, has committed to provide a \$10,000 donation in support of our 2020 summer camp program. Beacon House has proudly offered a high-quality, low-cost summer camp to families in Edgewood Commons for many years. Families in and around Edgewood rely on us to keep their children highly engaged, both academically and physically, each summer.

Historically, we have relied on government funding from the District of Columbia as the primary source of support for this program. However, government funding has become increasingly uncertain in recent years, and we now anticipate the need to secure new sources of funding for this program. An early commitment of \$10,000 from Hanover Company toward our summer camp program in 2020 would help ensure our continuing ability to offer an affordable, high quality summer camp for children in Edgewood Commons. This past summer (2018) it cost approximately \$110,000 to host a 5-week camp for 90 children. We expect that costs will increase by 2020.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18-21
EXHIBIT NO. 15D

The \$10,000 commitment from Hanover Company is estimated to fully fund the costs of attendance for at least eight campers in the 2020 summer camp program. Upon receipt of the funds, Beacon House will provide a letter acknowledging receipt of the funds and confirming that the funds have been devoted to tuition costs for campers in the summer camp program.

I respectfully request that you vote to approve Hanover Company's application so that the development and delivery of the Hanover 8th Street project's much-needed community benefits can commence. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 202-436-0806 or khinton@beaconhousedc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "H".

Kevin Hinton
CEO and Executive Director