



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
The Nation's Mosque®  
MASJID MUHAMMAD, INC  
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May 1, 2019

Commissioner Troy Prestwood, Chairman  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A  
2100-D Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

RE: The Clara at Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave, SE – Letter of Support

Dear Chairman, Prestwood:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of The Clara at Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave (The Clara), the proposed mixed-used project that Masjid Muhammad, Inc. is developing in conjunction with our development partner, Banneker Ventures.

As owner of 2313-2323 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave, SE, Masjid Muhammad, has been a cornerstone in the Anacostia community for the past five decades. Our commitment to serve our community through various community services during this period, has included operation of the Shabazz Bakery, Clara Muhammad School, Fish Restaurant, space for the District's first Islamic Heritage Museum, counselling services, distributing hundreds of school backpacks, supporting free food programs and other community/cultural events in the area and on our properties.

The growing affordable and workforce housing crisis in the District, prompted our decision to partner with Banneker Ventures in the development of The Clara. We view this project as an opportunity to continue the redevelopment of Anacostia by bringing new mixed-income housing and retail space while keeping the America's Islamic Heritage Museum in the project.

With over 80 plus years in the District, Masjid Muhammad is representative of the oldest established Muslim community in our nation's capital city. It established the first Mosque built from the ground up by all "grassroots" American citizens/residents, who are descendants of enslaved Africans. It has long been a pillar in the neighborhood, the city, nationally, and internationally. Its leading in interfaith, national veterans' services, District senior citizen program, young enhancement, peacebuilding, Boy Scouts, Civic engagement to include advocating for affordable housing, job creation, sheltering the homeless, social justice engagement, and more. We proudly invest in the betterment of our community and society.

It is our hope that we will be able to obtain the full support of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A for our application for a Map Amendment.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (478) 320-2948.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Talib M. Shareef". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Dr. Talib Shareef, USAF, Retired  
President and Imam