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District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street N.W. Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: OPPOSITION TO ZC CASE #: 19-03
Masjid Muhammad, Inc., Proposed Map Amendment

Dear Commission and Commissioners:

As a native Washingtonian, direct descendant of one of the national capital's original black families, and an interested person having direct historical ties to the property subject of the above captioned case; pursuant to the District of Columbia Administrative Procedures Act, and the Zoning Laws and Regulations regarding contested cases, I strongly oppose the proposed map amendment for the following reasons:

1. I FIRST OPPOSE THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ZC CASE # 19-03, on the grounds that as of April 11, 2019 the Deed was transferred and the Applicant Masjid Muhammad Inc. no longer holds title as owner of the real property subject of the proposed map amendment. Therefore, the Applicant is no longer the real party at interest in these administrative proceedings; lacks the standing to pursue the proposed map amendment in it's own name or on it's own behalf; and the legal basis for their continued representation is not clearly evident by the record.
2. I refer the Commission's attention to the record herein, respectfully requesting this body to take Administrative Notice of the Petition marked as Exhibit 25, to which I make reference as if set forth in full in this foregoing opposition.
3. I OPPOSE EXHIBIT 25, by questioning it's validity on the grounds that I experienced and witnessed deceptive or misleading statements, and false information or practices being used to gain signatures on the document, personally being told that the purpose of the petition was to show support in trying to keep America's Islamic Heritage Museum on the site. I and others that I personally witnessed were not told that our signatures would be supporting the actual development project. After reading the petition titled WE SUPPORT THE CLARA, I openly raised this concern that The Clara was the actual name of the development project, and refused to sign it on that basis. Even after my objection I watched them continue to make this statement to other people signing the petition. I therefore respectfully demand that Exhibit 25 be stricken from the record, or, given no consideration in determining this case other than as an opposition to the

proposed development in support of keeping what is already there, and for purposes of historic designation and preservation inclusive of the facts stated in paragraph 4 below.

4. The opening statements made on the face of the Petition are also inaccurate and misleading insofar as the off-track history as presented in this self portrayal, is a distorted summarization of facts that cannot remain on the historical District of Columbia record unchallenged or uncorrected.

The real property known as 2313 and 2315 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue S.E., belonged to Muhammad's Mosque which were located all over the United States and eventually to other parts of the world. In particular, the real property was a branch of Mosque No. 4 on New Jersey Avenue, being held under the title of Muhammad's Holy Temple of Islam, which is more commonly known as the Nation of Islam founded by the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad nearly a century ago. Masjid Muhammad, Inc. is a very recent development and had absolutely no part in the historical context depicted in the Petition other than the fact that it's founder was Warith Deen Muhammad, the son of our Holy Messenger the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Over a several year period of making one change after another Warith joined by others started calling themselves the American Muslim Mission, and then continuing to act under various names and tenants other than that given to the believers by the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad for at least 50 years prior to Warith's rise to power, they unsuccessfully attempted on numerous occasions to dismantle and dissolve our spiritual brotherhood and sisterhood. Ultimately and to this very day this group now known as Masjid Muhammad Inc. completely disassociate themselves with Muhammad's Temple of Islam also called the Nation of Islam.

As the descendants of slaves the acts of members of the American Muslim Mission left the believers in disarray, and caused our quest for a full and complete freedom here in North America to become the victim of fractionalization, but we have never been disbanded or dissolved. In fact, in their ever changing quest in search of an identity they separated themselves from the Nation of Islam, while nearly all of the believers continued to practice the teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. For a long time after the Messenger's departure I continued to attend Mosque Number 4 on New Jersey Avenue and for a long time there was no more than a handful of people holding the Mosque down including myself. I never stopped trying to work cooperatively with them, but in peace and with standing I left because I could not in good conscious surrender the way of life prescribed for the American Negro by our beloved Messenger. How could I give up my salvation in search of another, when this is the way of life that saved me!

Instead of just leaving and going to start their own thing, Warith Deen Muhammad and his followers began usurping the Nation of Islam's assets including the real property that is the subject of the above captioned proposed map amendment They begin liquidating all the assets, dissolving and disposing of all the businesses, equipment, and ultimately turning our Mosque into Masjids.

During the Messengers lifetime I personally attended the subject property which was known as Mosque or Temple No. 4B, and the funds used for the properties acquisition and maintenance was raised by the believers selling Muhammad Speaks newspapers, whiting fish, fund raising, and making individual contributions that gave a sense of pride and joy to the so-called American Negro (black) community in Southeast, the District of Columbia, and the nation. Clearly this impact still has a great deal of meaning to black residents of Ward 8 evident by their unwitting signatures being placed on the Petition.

5. I OPPOSE THE APPLICATION on the grounds that no-one has sought out the position of the believers who like my self are still living, and many still in Ward 8. As interested persons we are not being represented fairly in this hearing or the overall discussion of how you intend to pull the rug of our history from under our feet in such a blatant, disrespectful, and immoral manner by deliberately obliterating our contributions to our race and the history of America, just to build someone else vision on top of where stand.
6. I OPPOSE THE APPLICATION on the grounds that the real property in question is subject to listing not only on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites, but also on the National Register of Historic Places. By their own admission as illustrated in Exhibit 25, the Applicant acknowledges the historic context of the building and site. Therefore, according to law the real property must be submitted for full review and designation, prior to its consideration for a map amendment, demolition, or any future development.
7. I OPPOSE THE APPLICATION on the grounds of the naming of the proposed project, and I therefore respectfully DEMAND NOW that the Applicant, Commission, ANC, and all interested parties immediately cease and desist in attributing to this proposed development and map amendment the honorable and sacred name of our beloved Sister Clara Muhammad the wife of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, as not only blasphemy and hypocrisy, but also a direct affront upon our religion Islam through the accomplishments we the city and nation's former slaves have made, lived and practiced.
8. I OPPOSE THE APPLICATION, PROPOSED MAP AMENDMENT, AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, on the grounds that our beloved Sister Clara Muhammad during her lifetime was an active member of Muhammad's Temple of Islam or Nation of Islam, and not a member of Masjid Muhammad Inc. She is not only a founding pillar of our Nation and a forerunner in the establishment of independent black schools and home schooling, but she was also a staunch advocate of black people doing for self, and for seeking a full and complete freedom through separation of cultures between black and white people. Based upon moral and religious grounds I strongly oppose and object to naming the development or any portion of the project including the application in this proposed map amendment after Sister Clara Muhammad, or using the subject property under her name to house anyone or anything other than a so-called American Negro who now also identifies themselves as Blacks and African-Americans; as an insult and affront to the religious and spiritual convictions I along with so many other believers still hold sacred.

In conclusion, I will go on record stating that pursuant to the First Amendment I have the right to seek redress before this administrative tribunal for wrongs I believe I am made to suffer, to freely speak by expressing my opinion and concerns in this matter, to freely exercise my beliefs, and to request relief from all perceived violations of my constitutional rights, privileges and immunities.

I will go on record that upon several occasions in the past I have been approached in a threatening and demeaning manner with physical violence and other retaliatory acts directly from members of Masjid Muhammad Inc., including all the other names it has used beginning with the American Muslim Mission, for freely and respectfully exercising my constitutional rights by openly opposing them as I am today. I would hope that any harassment or retaliatory acts taken against me by the Applicant, its members, supporters, developers, and all others involved in the foregoing map amendment and proposed development project; be construed as grounds for an automatic dismissal of the Application and any future request made for the subject real property.

WHEREFORE, for all the reasons above stated and others not mentioned that are based on moral and religious grounds, I strongly oppose the proposed map amendment in ZC Case # 19-03, and respectfully request that the application be denied.

I verify under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and beliefs.

Respectfully submitted,

 July 12, 2019
Minister William Richard X Date