

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Brian Hamilton, Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 I Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Westminster Presbyterian Church Development Plan

To whom it may concern,

The Southwest BID (SWBID) would like to express our support of the housing and arts project planned by the Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 4th and I Streets SW. Westminster has a long-standing reputation as a supporter of artists and musicians. The Westminster Jazz and Blues programs are signature events in Southwest D.C. and are deeply appreciated by the community. We are especially enthusiastic about the elements of the Westminster plan that include space for working artists and community arts programming.

The interests of the SWBID and those of Westminster overlap. We are both concerned for the future of the neighborhood and committed to creating space for local artists to thrive. To this end, we have been working with Pastor Brian Hamilton on the planning and programming of the public park adjacent to the Church property for the last four years. Our joint efforts have also included working with the Urban Land Institute on the creation of a survey on all arts assets in Southwest, the programming of the Southwest Duck Pond, and the visioning work for the greater Duck Pond park area that runs from the Duck Pond park to the Southwest Public Library park.

Pastor Hamilton is regarded by our staff and design team as a key advisor in determining the future of the use of the greater Duck Pond park space. We are fortunate to have Westminster Church at the center of our plans for the beautification and activation of this central area of the Southwest neighborhood.

We share a belief with Westminster and Pastor Hamilton that working artists contribute greatly to the neighborhood and have a positive lasting effect on those of us who live and work here. The plan proposed by Westminster goes above and beyond other projects here in Southwest, D.C. with its commitment to both affordable and senior housing. Moreover, the Westminster proposal is in a league of its own regarding the plan's commitment to incorporating space for the arts. The SWBID confidently endorses this plan as an asset for the community that will encourage artists and contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Moore
Executive Director
SWBID