



September 17, 2021

Hon. Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Hon. Anthony Hood
Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

- **Re: Anacostia Business Improvement District Testimony Redbrick LMD – Northern Howard Road Zoning - Case: 20-22**

Dear Chairman Mendelson, Chairman Hood, and Fellow Councilmembers and Zoning Commissioners:

As you are aware, we are living in extraordinary times. The impactful engagement surrounding inequalities and injustice and the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic continue to draw acute attention to the economic disparities that disproportionately effect people of color and those at the highest risk in communities across the country. In Washington, DC, those communities are primarily east of the river – they are our communities. It is amid this challenging landscape the Anacostia Business Improvement District continues to prove itself to be bold by recognizing, defining and responding to needs of our marginalized communities. As a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization and the only legislated BID east of the river, we are leaders charged to be agile, create opportunities, and provide solutions.

Therefore, our awareness is heightened and our discernment acute when considering private sector developers’ work in the Anacostia BID and throughout Ward 8. It is imperative they bring conscious development to our communities, with focused efforts to serve and engage. As the developer of The Bridge District (formerly known as the Columbian Quarter).”, Redbrick LMD has been such a partner, proactively engaging with not only me as the Executive Director, but also directly with the community on multiple impactful initiatives. It is in this context that I am pleased to present testimony to highlight the Anacostia BID’s ongoing partnership initiatives with Redbrick LMD as you consider the NHR zoning.

Redbrick LMD has shown itself to be a committed partner in achieving our workforce development goals and has contributed in a very substantive way. Through our Anacostia BID Clean Team and Flo Team partnerships, together we are employing Anacostia residents, including returning citizens, and equipping them with varied new skillsets that support sustainable employment such as creating paths to contracts with developers and entrepreneurship opportunities.

We have also been working together on temporary retail and events activation plan for The Bridge District. The Anacostia BID is an arts and entertainment district, and through our efforts, organically becoming an innovation hub. The rezoning of these vacant parcels to include them within the NHR Zone

would allow Redbrick LMD to expand its vision for The Bridge District and bring additional benefit to the community through temporary/interim activations around the arts and innovation, as well as incorporate other community-serving amenities as part of its exciting future development.

In addition to the NHR zoning providing requirements for much-needed retail activation and affordable housing, the with the approval by the National Park Service, the creation of a public pedestrian and bike promenade would run north of The Bridge District and connect the Anacostia metro station to the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. It is this connectivity that also drives the Anacostia BID to continue to serve beyond our boundaries and connect communities.

As you consider the including the currently vacant, unzoned parcels within the Northern Howard Road (NHR) zone, know that we look forward to continuing this important work with Redbrick LMD and appreciate that this rezoning would help ensure that The Bridge District will further benefit the Anacostia and Ward 8 communities as part of the economic development work that we spearhead at the Anacostia BID.

Sincerely,



Kristina Noell
Executive Director