

April 12, 2021

DC Office of Zoning
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Letter of Support for the following cases before the Committee:

- Case Number: 20-23 - LDP Acquisitions, LLC & 525 Rhode Island Avenue LP
- Case Number: 21-01 - Office of Planning

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Eckington Civic Association (ECA), I am writing to express support for the proposed zoning map amendments for multiple parcels along the south side of the 600 block of Rhode Island Avenue; as well as the DC Government owned Fire & EMS Engine 12 at address 501-513 Rhode Island Avenue, NE (collectively, "South RIA").

Seizing the opportunity of redeveloping South RIA has the potential to bring vital businesses, services, affordable housing, and community spaces to the surrounding neighborhoods, and consistent with the Future Land Use Map of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan as amended by the D.C. Council in 2012 and the ECA's [proposed amendments](#) to the Comprehensive Plan. These projects represent an enormous opportunity to make better use of transit and trail-adjacent properties and to better connect Eckington residents to the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

The redevelopment of these properties presents an opportunity to address a service gap that D.C. Public Library (DCPL) identified in its [November 2020 Facilities Master Plan](#) by incorporating a new DCPL branch library to serve Eckington, Edgewood, and Stronghold. The library system provides critical services to D.C. residents. Branch libraries foster growth and life-long learning, and provide critical free services to district residents--including meeting rooms, computer access, and programming for residents of all ages. We are also excited about DCPL's proposal that a new branch library in our neighborhood could incorporate new affordable housing units; presenting the DC Government with innovative opportunities to meet critical community needs, in partnership with private development.

For these reasons, the ECA supports the rezoning requested by the parties in Case Number 20-23 and Case Number 21-01.

Signed,



Daniel Agold, ECA Vice President
on behalf of the Eckington Civic Association