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**RE: Zoning Commission Case No.23-08 (1) Application of The Wesley Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church for a Campus Plan (2025-2035)**

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**From** Carol Thompson Cole <ctcole1201@gmail.com>

**Date** Fri 5/9/2025 2:41 PM

**To** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-ZCSubmissions@dc.gov>; MCALLISTER-WILSON, DAVID <dwilson@wesleyseminary.edu>; JPB@gdllaw.com <JPB@gdllaw.com>

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Mr. J. Anthony Hood  
Chairman  
DC Zoning Commission  
One Judiciary Square  
441 4th Street N.W.  
Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hood,

I am Carol Thompson Cole. I was born and raised in Washington, DC and have worked on Washington, D.C. issues throughout my career from the House of Representatives, Government of the District of Columbia and the White House.

I have also worked in business and philanthropy and been a member of boards, commissions and membership organizations that have engaged in finance, education, housing, public safety, health and other issues that address improving the quality of life of all people in Washington D.C.

As a young adult, I became familiar with Wesley Theological Seminary through my church, Asbury United Methodist Church (926 11th Street, NW, DC 20001).

As a member of United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith), we served dinner for Wesley students once a month. Through that engagement with students I became familiar with Wesley programs and degrees.

I have been a member of Wesley's Board of Governors since the late '90s/early 2000s. I have been impressed with Wesley's restoration of the church through varied strategic initiatives, contributing to its location in Washington, DC.

Through partnerships with churches, Christian leaders and nonprofit organizations, Wesley has become an anchor institution throughout our community.

I encourage the District to embrace and support its religious and educational institutions. Wesley contributes daily to the vitality of the City and its citizens. This is a commitment it has had and

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enhanced since it moved to its present site.

Wesley's Centers of Excellence - Community Engagement Institute, Lewis Center for Church Leadership and other programs have significantly strengthened health and education programs for those with the greatest needs in our City. An exciting initiative is Wesley's substantial and most needed contribution for affordable housing in Ward 3. It will meet a great need where there are limited resources. Wesley's heavily subsidized tuition and housing provides opportunity without causing significant student debt and provides a unique environment for learning, formation and service that is a major draw for the best and brightest to come to Wesley and to stay in the DMV.

I write today because the success of this mission has taken too long. We need timely and decisive approvals now so the essential programs of Wesley continue and proposed opportunities are not lost. I encourage you to approve this case now.

Sincerely, Carol