

December 3, 2024

DC Office of Zoning (DOZ)/Zoning Commission (ZC)  
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

**RE: Washington Navy Yard East (NYE) - Case Number 23-27 (Office of Planning)**

Dear Chairperson Hood:

My name is Ricardo W. Payne, and I am both Pastor Emeritus of The Light House Baptist Church and the Executive Director, Serving Each Other. I am writing to express my support for the proposed zoning amendments to create the Navy Yard East (NYE) zone.

Having previously served as the Administrative Officer for the White House Communications Office, I understand the significance of a project such as this and its advancement of national security. I am pleased to know that the U.S. Department of the Navy has put forth this project to further ensure that our immediate community (here in the District) and our country remain protected from threats.

The Navy's plan will also create opportunities that align with the needs and aspirations of a range of District residents, including but not limited to:

- Delivering up new multifamily rentals (including affordable units), and potentially for-sale, housing units within the Lower Anacostia Waterfront.
- Employing 6,000+ people during construction and 400+ new permanent full-time jobs upon completion.
- Enabling the creation of 5+ acres of open space and parks along a vibrant waterfront promenade.

All of this is (and more) vital for ensuring the District remains accessible, activated, and connected on both sides of the Anacostia River. Once more, I strongly support the text & map amendments to create NYE. Thank you and the Zoning Commission for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ricardo W. Payne, Pastor Emeritus, The Light House Baptist Church  
Executive Director, Serving Each Other <sup>TM</sup>