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May 9, 2025

Zoning Commission
of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Ste. 200
Washington, DC 20001

Re: ZC Case No. 24-14 – Emory United Methodist Church (“Emory”)
Letter of Support

Dear Commissioners:

Please allow this letter to serve as the Festival Center’s letter of support for Emory’s request to rezone their property located at 1459 Columbia Road, NW from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

The Festival Center has existed since 1989 as a ministry from the Church of the Saviour, a nondenominational church in Washington, DC, founded in 1947 by Gordon and Mary Cosby. Gordon and a small group of others started the Festival Center to support community-centered ministries and non-profits and to train faith leaders in DC and all across the country for mission and justice. Their call remains ours today. For over 30 years the Festival Center has served as a hub for activists, artists, people of faith and no faith, seekers, and mission-driven groups. A landmark in Adams Morgan, the Center houses 25 nonprofits, provides fiscal sponsorship to 20 nonprofits, is a home to 4 faith communities, and is a partner to dozens of organizations working to build movements for justice.

We are excited about the Emory project and we strongly support Emory’s efforts to rezone their property because doing so would significantly contribute to the overall affordable housing supply in the Columbia Heights neighborhood and would positively impact the neighborhood’s vibrancy. For these reasons, we urge the Zoning Commission to approve Emory’s request to rezone their property from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

Sincerely,

Bill Mefford
Executive Director

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**BUILDING MOVEMENTS FOR JUSTICE
MOBILIZING FAITH LEADERS TO SERVE**

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.24-14
EXHIBIT NO.39