

Martin Weldon
Brookland/Woodridge Resident
2009 Kearny Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

Date: June 5, 2025

Chairman Anthony Hood and Members of the Commission
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Letter of Support for ZC Case No. 24-15 – 901 Monroe Street, LLC

Dear Chairman Hood and Esteemed Members of the Zoning Commission,

My name is Martin Weldon, and I am writing to express my heartfelt support for the proposed development at 901 Monroe Street NE. As a native Washingtonian and living in the Woodridge neighborhood for the past 19 years. I have worked in the Brookland neighborhood for 18 years. This project represents far more than a new building—it reflects a chance to expand opportunity, restore vibrancy, and affirm the vision we share for a thriving, inclusive neighborhood.

For the past 18 years, I've served as a member of the Menkiti Group Sales Team, where I've had the honor of helping hundreds of individuals and families achieve the dream of homeownership and proprietorships right here in Ward 5 where I've had the honor of helping hundreds of individuals and families achieve the dream of homeownership and entrepreneurship right here in Ward 5. My work has been rooted in more than just sales, it's been about creating access, building equity, and cultivating pride in place. I've walked alongside first-time buyers, longtime renters, and legacy residents who are investing in the neighborhoods they love. This experience has only deepened my belief in the transformative power of thoughtful, intentional real estate development.

The 901 Monroe project aligns with my personal mission in the work that I have done for almost 2 decades. It brings 233 new homes, including 36 designated affordable units and 12 family-sized three-bedrooms, into a neighborhood that deeply needs them. These homes have the potential to welcome a new generation of residents, to prevent displacement, and to create new pathways to stability for those who might otherwise be left behind. It's a meaningful answer to the region's housing shortage and a tangible step toward a more equitable DC.

Beyond the housing, this development will enliven a site that has long sat dormant for well over a decade after the initial Development Project was initially approved in 2011. It will inject energy and foot traffic into a local economy still recovering from the loss of neighborhood institutions. I've seen firsthand how additional density—when done with respect and vision—can serve as a lifeline for our small businesses, especially along 12th Street and Monroe Street Market. These businesses are the heartbeat of Brookland, and they deserve the kind of intentional growth that this project will bring.

I'm particularly inspired by the project's commitment to sustainability and connectivity. The minimized parking, abundant bike infrastructure, and proximity to transit make it a model of smart, people-first design. Widened sidewalks, new trees, and live/work units that offer space for artists and entrepreneurs will further weave this development into the cultural fabric of our community. In every aspect, the 901 Monroe development reflects the values I've upheld throughout my professional and personal life, access, empowerment, and community stewardship. It brings together the practical needs of housing and infrastructure with the intangible but vital ingredients of dignity, creativity, and belonging.

I urge you to approve this important project. As someone who has helped build homeownership pathways and foster neighborhood stability for years, I see this development not just as a building, but the foundation for community growth and renewal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Weldon
Brookland/Woodridge Resident
2009 Kearny Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018
Member, Menkiti Group Sales Team
martin@menkitigroup.com