

Letter in Support of ZC Case No. 24-15, 901 Monroe Street, LLC

To: Zoning Commission zcsubmissions@dc.gov

My name is Sara Wilkinson, and I live at 4113 13th Place NE—less than a mile from the 901 Monroe site, which I pass often on foot or by bike, my main ways of getting around. I've lived in Brookland since 2016. When we bought our home, the lot was wrapped in banners promising new homes, new neighbors, new energy. But nearly a decade later, it's still vacant, muddy, fenced-off, and full of missed potential. **This is not the highest and best use of this land.**

I understand some of the concerns raised by neighbors who oppose this project, but I don't share them. In fact, I believe we cannot afford more delay. Our city is facing serious financial strain. Local businesses are struggling, beloved restaurants are closing. Friends are moving away. Every year this lot sits empty is a lost opportunity to bring more people, more retail, more support, and more vitality to Brookland. This is a chance to welcome new neighbors, add homes near Metro, and strengthen the community we all care about.

Mayor Bowser has said it plainly: we need to retain and attract families and taxpayers. That doesn't happen by leaving key sites like this one vacant for another decade. Please approve the Planned Unit Development and Map Amendment for 901 Monroe Street NE, and help Brookland grow into the vibrant, inclusive neighborhood it's meant to be.

Respectfully,

Sara Wilkinson