W8CED THINK TANK
w8cedthinktank.org

The W8CED Think Tank is the strategic anchor for a community-driven movement to secure and strengthen Ward 8's economic future. Built on a decade of dedicated organizing, grounded in the insights of over 3,000 residents, 30+ town halls, and 1,180 survey responses, we are turning the collective voice of Ward 8 into systemic, permanent change. The W8CED Report, *A Dream Deserved: Realizing Our Collective Emergence,* is the framework for economic development planning in Ward 8.

Our Mission: To dismantle structural barriers to economic mobility by prioritizing the lived experience and expertise of residents in Ward 8 and to develop a systematic approach that can be replicated in communities across the country.

Addressing Structural Barriers:
We focus on targeted solutions to deep-seated inequities, including:

- **Limited access to capital:** Bridging the gap for local entrepreneurs and businesses.
- **Housing instability:** Combating displacement and promoting homeownership.
- **Workforce gaps:** Creating sustainable pathways to local employment.
- **Restricted wealth creation:** Ensuring residents own the assets in their own neighborhoods.

The Ward 8 Community Investment Initiative (W8CII):
The Think Tank partners with The Coalition (formerly CNHED), which serves as the fiduciary lead for the W8CII. Together, we raise public and private capital to identify Ward 8 assets and provide technical assistance to local businesses. That capital also resources our UPO Leadership Academy, a hub for resident training, youth development, and tenant association support. The training is built on *Power in Practice*, the Think Tank's own community economic development curriculum.

Our Phased Approach to Impact:

- **Phase 1: Strategic Alignment:** Form a resident-governed coalition to establish implementation plans and launch Parent and Tenant Associations.
- **Phase 2: Targeted Implementation:** Launching 2–3 high-impact, community-based strategies focused on property development, housing stability, and capital access.
- **Phase 3: Long-Term Sustainability:** Securing permanent, resident-governed investment infrastructure to ensure long-term financial autonomy.

What Residents Can Expect:
Residents can expect representation on the reconstituted Leadership Council, a voice through the Parent Association and the Tenant Association, and paid training through the Leadership Academy. Residents decide where the resources go and what happens in their community.

Moving Forward Together:
Ward 8 does not lack vision, leadership, or momentum; it lacks the coordinated infrastructure to turn these assets into prosperity. The W8CED Think Tank is helping to build that infrastructure. Join us in securing a stronger, wealthier, and more resilient Ward 8 and a model that communities everywhere can build on for generations to come.

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 26-RE
EXHIBIT NO. 19