

Dear Chairman Hood,

I am writing to express my support for approval of Vision McMillan Partner's (VMP) first-stage and consolidated PUD and related map amendment to rezone the McMillan property to CR and C-3-C Zone Districts.

I live less than a mile from the site of this proposed revitalization. This project could not be more welcome in our neighborhood. Over the last six years VMP has made a tremendous efforts to work with the community to develop a concept for the former McMillan Sand Filtration Plant that will serve and improve our neighborhood. The result is a proposal that promises development local residents will enjoy and benefit from, and that the DC community can be proud of.

The proposed plan pays homage to the historic significance of the site while providing a beautiful new place to work, shop, and live. The most important feature of the proposal, in my opinion, is the preservation of 12 acres of public green space that will be open and available to the public for the first time in generations. Between the new park and the community center and pool, this will be a true asset to the area. The project will also great thousands of jobs and infuse new tax revenue into the District. It will bring badly-needed restaurants and shops to our neighborhood. And finally - finally! - our neighborhood will have the high-quality grocery store that it deserves. For too long, NE DC has been a food desert, undeserved by larger grocery stores. This will fulfill a long-standing need in the community.

In addition, this project will bring down the unsightly fence that has surrounded this space for too long. I have always been perplexed by signs urging us to "Save McMillan Park." Save it for what? For a few abutting residents to look at wistfully? This prime real estate in the heart of DC will finally be a resource for the entire community.

I hope you will not only consider the loudest and most strident voices at the May hearings, but also the quiet groundswell of support for this project and the benefits it will have for DC residents of all ages. I join many in this community in asking for the support of the Zoning Commission on this issue and I am grateful for your thoughtful review and thankless work to bring meaningful and sustainable development to the District.

Sincerely,

Phoebe L. Sweet

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Submitted on 4/24/2014 by:

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