ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION ORDER NO. 16-02

Z.C. Case No. 16-02

Consolidated Planned Unit Development DC Stadium, LLC

Square 603S, Lot 800; Square 605, Lots 7 & 802; Square 607, Lot 13; Square 661N, Lot 800; Square 661, part of Lots 804 & 805; Square 665, part of Lot 24

February 16, 2017

Pursuant to proper notice, the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia (the "Commission") held a public hearing on November 28 and December 14, 2016 to consider an application by DC Stadium, LLC (the "Applicant") for consolidated review and approval of a planned unit development ("PUD") (the "Application"). The Commission considered the Application pursuant to Chapter 24 of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations (1958), Title 11 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations ("DCMR"). The public hearing was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Subtitle X, Chapter 3 and Subtitle Z, Title 11 of the DCMR (2016). The Commission approves the Application, subject to the conditions below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application, Parties, and Hearing

- The project site consists of Square 603S, Lot 800; Square 605, Lots 7 & 802; Square 607, Lot 13; Square 661N, Lot 800; Square 661, part of Lots 804 & 805; Square 665, part of Lot 24; and closed portions of R Street, S Street, 1st Street, and Potomac Avenue in the Southwest quadrant of the District of Columbia (the "Property").
- 2. On January 19, 2016, the Applicant filed an application for consolidated review and approval of a PUD (the "Application"). (Exhibits ("Ex.") 1, 1A-1H).
- 3. On March 4, 2016, the Office of Planning ("OP") filed a report recommending that the Application be set down for a public hearing. (Ex. 9).
- During its public meeting on March 14, 2016, the Commission voted to set down the Application for a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *D.C. Register* on September 16, 2016 and was mailed to Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 6D and to owners of property within 200 feet of the Property. (Ex. 13, 14; 3/14/2016 Transcript ("Tr.") at 52).
- 5. The Application was further updated by pre-hearing submissions that the Applicant filed on August 23, 2016 and October 13, 2016. (Ex. 10, 10A, 10B, 22, 22A, 22B).

- 6. On October 24, 2016, the Applicant filed a request to continue the scheduled hearing to a later date to accommodate changes to the plans as part of an agreement with neighboring property owners, which the Commission granted. (Ex. 25)
- 7. The Applicant further updated the Application with additional information filed on November 15, 2016. (Ex. 37, 37A, 37B)
- 8. The Commission held a public hearing on the Application on November 28 and December 14, 2016. The Commission accepted Jon Knight as an expert in the field of architecture, Robert Schiesel as an expert in the field of traffic engineering, David Schoenwolf as an expert in geotechnical engineering, and Anita Broughton as an expert in human health risk assessment and industrial hygiene. (Ex. 22A1, 22A2, 113, 114). The Applicant provided testimony from these experts as well as from representatives of the Applicant. The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Brian Kenner testified in support of the Application.
- 9. The Applicant filed additional information on December 8, 2016 in response to questions and comments that arose during the November 28 hearing. (Ex. 97, 97A-97F).
- 10. In addition to the Applicant, ANC 6D was automatically a party in this proceeding and submitted a resolution and report in opposition to the Application. A representative of ANC 6D also testified at the public hearing. (Ex. 29, 45).
- 11. At the public hearing, the Commission heard testimony and received reports from OP, the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT"), and the District Department of Energy and Environment ("DOEE") in support of the Application. (Ex. 40, 42, 43)
- 12. Multiple persons and organizations filed letters and/or provided testimony in support, opposition, or no position to the Application.
- 13. At the close of the public hearing, the Commission requested that the Applicant respond to some outstanding comments and questions and to work with the ANC to resolve some outstanding concerns. (12/14 Tr. at 201).
- 14. The Applicant responded to the Commission's comments and questions in a post-hearing filing that it submitted on January 23, 2017. (Ex. ___).
- 15. The Commission took final action to approve the Application at a public meeting on February 16, 2017 by a vote of ____.

THE MERITS OF THE APPLICATION

Overview of the Property

16. The Property contains approximately 429,084 square feet of land area. It is generally bounded by R Street SW and Potomac Avenue SW to the north, T Street SW to the south,

Half Street SW and an unimproved parcel to the east, and 2^{nd} Street SW to the west. (Ex. 37B).

- 17. The area of the former 1st Street (that has been closed) is encumbered by an easement benefitting Pepco. For the stretch of former 1st Street between R and T Streets, an area that ranges from 68 to 83 feet wide and is 18 feet high cannot be built upon. The easement also extends eastward onto part of former S Street (that also has been closed) that is within the Property boundary. (Ex. 37B)
- 18. The Property is owned by the District of Columbia and is leased to the Applicant as part of the legislation that facilitated the creation of a new stadium for the DC United professional soccer team. The Property contains parking lots and other industrial uses that will be replaced. (Ex. 1).
- 19. The surrounding area is mostly a mix of industrial uses. To the north across R Street and Potomac Avenue are a new Pepco substation (under construction) and a parking lot. To the south across T Street is a parking lot slated for redevelopment. Across 2nd Street to the west is Fort McNair. Directly adjacent to the southeast is a Pepco facility, and to the east across Half Street is a concrete plant. Areas further to the south near the Anacostia River are slated for redevelopment. The Nationals Stadium is located approximately 1/3 mile to the northeast. (Ex. 1, 37B).
- 20. The Property is zoned CR and is included in the Capitol Gateway (CG) overlay district. Most properties immediately surrounding the Property are also zoned CG/CR. Properties located further to the south and east near the Anacostia River are zoned CG/W-2.
- 21. The Future Land Use Map ("FLUM") of the Comprehensive Plan designates the Property for mixed-use High Density Commercial/High Density Residential use. The Generalized Policy Map ("GPM") includes the Property in the Land Use Change Area category. (Ex. 1).

The Project

- 22. The Applicant proposes to redevelop the Property as a new stadium and ancillary facilities for the professional DC United soccer team ("Project"). The Project will consist of the stadium and the adjacent public open spaces. The Project will have a FAR of approximately 0.94, or approximately 403,130 gross square feet, a maximum height of 110 feet, and a lot occupancy of approximately 50%. (Ex. 37B).
- 23. The stadium will be a bowl with pitched seating stands surrounding the field. The stadium will contain approximately 19,000 seats, ground floor retail, and team offices. The ground-level retail space, containing approximately 14,000 square feet, will occupy the east side of the exterior of the stadium. A two-story building on the south side of the exterior of the stadium will contain team offices, approximately 3000 square feet of ground-level retail, player locker rooms, and a bike valet. The northeast corner of the stadium will include ticket windows and the main entry gate. The team store also will be

located at the northeast side of the stadium facing R Street. Additional entry gates will be located at the southeast and northwest corners of the stadium. The Project will not include any on-site parking but will include loading facilities under the east stands. (Ex 37B).

- 24. The publicly-accessible areas surrounding the stadium will include extensive improvements. The area to the northeast of the stadium along Potomac Avenue extending from Half Street will include a landscaped public park and an open space/entry plaza for walking and gathering. The Applicant expects to activate this area on both game and non-game days with events such as live performances, food trucks, etc. Adjacent to the northwest entry gate and along the retail on the east side of the stadium will be a plaza for gathering and queuing. An additional open space/plaza for gathering and queuing will be located along the north side of the stadium and adjacent to the northwest entry gate and ticket windows. The plazas/open spaces will include various improvements, such as team-branding sculptures, to enhance their activation and the fan experience. All of these open spaces will be contained within the boundaries of the Project. (Ex. 37B)
- 25. Along the east side of the stadium, running from Potomac Avenue to T Street, will be a new 1st Street. This new 1st Street will be a private street open to the public. It will contain two traffic lanes, curbside parking, and sidewalks. The sidewalks between the street and the retail storefronts will be wide space to allow gathering and outdoor seating for the retail. The streetscape design elements for this street will mimic those of the public streets surrounding the Property. The new 1st Street will be closed to automobile traffic during soccer games and other large stadium events. (Ex. 37B)
- 26. Truck deliveries will access the stadium from the north via R Street and Potomac Avenue. A gate on the north side of the stadium perpendicular to R Street/Potomac Avenue corner will provide access to the loading facilities under the east side of the seating bowl. Trucks will head in and head out of the stadium's loading area from and to R Street. (Ex. 37B).
- 27. Pedestrian access to the stadium will be primarily via Potomac Avenue and the entry plaza at the northeast. However, secondary pedestrian access will be via 2nd Street from the north. It is expected that additional pedestrian access will occur via S Street from the east in the future with the construction of new infrastructure improvements along the waterfront. (Ex. 37B)
- 28. Bike parking will be well-accommodated at the stadium. The Project will provide at least 447 bicycle parking spaces in both the bike valet and elsewhere on the site with racks. This is in addition to even more bike racks that will be in the public space. (Ex. 97A, ___; 11/29 Tr. at 23)
- 29. The public space surrounding the stadium but outside the Property's boundaries will include additional improvements to enhance and beautify the public space. In particular, along the west side of the stadium on 2nd Street, the public space will include two pocket

parks. Another pocket park will be along the south side of the stadium on T Street. Additional tree boxes and other landscape elements will improve the public realm around the stadium. (Ex. 37B).

- 30. The stadium will be used for events all year. The stadium will host approximately 20 regular-season home soccer games annually. In addition, the Applicant expects that the stadium will host other events such as music performances and other sporting events. (11/28 Tr. at 19-20).
- 31. The Project will be designed to attain at least LEED Gold certification. (Ex. 33).

PUD Flexibility Requested

- 32. The Applicant requested flexibility from the parking and loading requirements in order to accommodate the proposed design of the Project, as detailed in the Applicant's written submission and the OP and DDOT final reports. The parking flexibility is necessary because the majority of patrons will arrive via public transit, and the Applicant will secure sufficient off-site parking spaces, approximately 3750, to accommodate demand. The loading flexibility is justified by the fact that the provided berths will accommodate the demand for loading in the Project and the fact that ample space for truck maneuvering will be available under the seating bowl. (Ex. 1, 37B).
- 33. The Applicant requested special exception approval for a stadium use. The stadium use is justified by its compatibility with this zone and this neighborhood. (Ex. 1, 37B)
- 34. With respect to the design of the Project, the Applicant requested flexibility to make minor adjustments to the final design of the stadium, public park, and the plazas/open space. (Ex. 37B).
- 35. With respect to the signage plan for the stadium, the Applicant requested flexibility to make minor adjustments to the final designs of the signs within the locations and general materials and general standards proposed by the Applicant. (Ex. 97F).

Project Amenities and Public Benefits

- 36. As detailed in the Applicant's testimony and written submissions, the proposed Project will generate the following project amenities and public benefits:
 - a. Exemplary urban design, architecture, and landscaping, including high-quality materials, superior architecture and design, streetscape improvements, and a transformative project. This includes a public park, public plazas/open spaces, and pocket parks. (Ex. 1, 37B, 42, 97F).
 - b. Site planning and efficient land utilization, through the redevelopment of an industrial and underused site. The current industrial and parking uses on the Property are greatly inefficient for a dense urban environment. The replacement of these uses with a prominent professional soccer stadium that will draw visitors

from throughout the region to a central location that will allow for a better and more efficient use of this dense urban fabric. (Ex. 1, 37B, 42, 97F).

- c. Effective and safe vehicular and pedestrian access and transportation management measures. Specific features include:
 - i. Transportation demand management ("TDM") plan as set forth in the Applicant's Comprehensive Transportation Review, including various means to encourage the use of public transport as the primary means of access to the stadium. (Ex. 37A, 43).
 - At least 447 bicycle parking spaces, including a bicycle valet and parking elsewhere on the site of the stadium as well as a new Capital Bikeshare Station and bottomless corral for overflow. (Ex. 42, 97A; 11/29 Tr. at 23).
 - iii. The development of a transportation operations and parking plan ("TOPP"). (Ex. 37A, 43, 97A, ____).
 - iv. Loading activities to occur primarily on non-game and non-event days and underneath the stadium seating bowl to minimize potential automobile and pedestrian conflicts. (Ex. 37A, 43).
- Employment and training opportunities, including a First Source Agreement, a Certified Business Enterprise Agreement, and a Project Labor Agreement. (Ex. 1, 97D; 11/28 Tr. at ____).
- d. Environmental benefits, including a commitment to design the Project to achieve LEED Gold certification. In addition, the Project will include reduced parking footprint and secure bicycle storage space to promote alternative transportation to and from the site; infiltration basins with sediment chambers located below the playing field to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff from the site; use of low or no-flow fixtures throughout to reduce water consumption; use of environmentally preferable building materials including those with high recycled content; and low or no-VOC emissions. (Ex. 1, 42, 43).
- e. Uses of special value through the implementation of a Community Benefits Agreement, which includes:
 - i. A soccer club program at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School
 - ii. A program to encourage childhood literacy and healthy lifestyle in partnership with Amidon-Bowen Elementary and UNITY Health
 - iii. "DC Kicks for Kids" at Jefferson Academy Middle School for students to receive free game tickets
 - iv. Bi-annually, identify skilled and qualified residents of ANC 6D aged 8-18 for invitation to sports clinics to qualify for scholarships to the D.C. United Training Program

- v. Provide scholarships to sponsor up to 25 low-income children aged 5-17 to attend a weeklong D.C. United summer day camp
- vi. Annually, purchase one full-page advertisement in each addition of the local "Southwester" newspaper
- vii. Provide a minimum of three community days for use of the Stadium for registered not-for-profits
- viii. Collaborate with the Department of Employment Services to provide young adults aged 16-25 in ANC 6D with summer youth and seasonal jobs
- ix. Partner with CBCC and other locally-involved organizations to engage ANC 6D residents for outreach for employment and training
- x. Provide free meeting room space for use by non-profit organizations in ANC 6D, subject to availability
- xi. Discuss opportunities for licensed food vendor space for residents in the Buzzard Point area that is consistent with the concessions partners' operations
- xii. Use reasonable best efforts to ensure that selected food and beverage concessionaire provide at least eight stadium events for CBCC or a nonprofit organization to operate a concession stand to support fundraising efforts to support specific Southwest community projects
- xiii. Contingent upon D.C. United identifying a sponsor to support a partnership with a healthcare provider, facilitate introductions between the CBCC, the District of Columbia, and other stakeholders regarding the establishment of a healthcare facility or services in the stadium area

(Ex. 97D).

Transportation Issues

- 37. The Applicant's traffic expert submitted a detailed comprehensive transportation review ("CTR") that concluded that the Project would not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding transportation network. In particular, the CTR found that the stadium's design would minimize any adverse impact. The CTR found that the stadium's design takes advantage of existing surrounding transportation facilities, is oriented to accommodate anticipated circulation routes, has on-site pedestrian facilities scaled to match projections of future pedestrian approaches and departure routes, and has ample bicycle parking near major existing and planned bicycle routes. (Ex. 37A).
- 38. The CTR found that the loading facilities will accommodate the loading demand. Most loading will occur on non-game and non-event days, and all truck maneuvers in and out of loading facilities will occur on private space below the stadium seating bowl. The stadium will include sufficient curbside space to accommodate patron pick-up and drop off, including from taxis and other for-hire car systems. (Ex. 97A; 11/28 Tr. at 47).
- 39. Metrorail will be the dominant mode of transit access to the stadium. The estimated transit ridership for a "sell-out" crowd at the stadium can be accommodated only on

Metrorail since it has far greater capacity than other modes, such as buses. Indeed, Metrorail does have the capacity to accommodate a "sell-out" crowd of transit riders traveling to the stadium. (Ex. 37A; 11/28 Tr. at 44).

- 40. Metrorail will be within a reasonable walking distance of the stadium, and patrons will be willing to walk it. Walking from the Metrorail station to the stadium will be the only viable means for most people because of limited bus capacity, but this will be reasonable for the vast majority of patrons. The walking routes and wide sidewalks from the Metrorail station will be accommodating and incentivizing for pedestrians. Based on comparable situations, the distance from the primary Metrorail station - Navy Yard - will not be too far for patrons, and shuttle service will be unnecessary. The Applicant's transportation expert reviewed other cities with similar "entertainment districts" with two or more large event spaces, such as Seattle. In that comparable situation, patrons were able and willing to walk approximately 0.6 mile to the stadium. This demonstrates that the distance in this case between the Navy Yard Metrorail station and the stadium entrance – approximately 0.6 mile – is sufficiently close for patrons to walk. Because of the anticipated volume of Metrorail riders walking from the Metrorail station to the stadium, a shuttle is not feasible in any event. In any event, a shuttle is not necessary for the movement of patrons for a successful operations plan. (Ex. 97A; 11/28 Tr. at 44-46, 194-95).
- 41. Similar to stadium patrons who will travel by Metrorail, patrons who drive and park at one of the designated lots will be willing to walk to the stadium. Based on experience at other stadiums (comparable in other cities) and Applicant's transportation expert's expertise, the off-site parking lots will be within a reasonable and feasible walking distance of the stadium for patrons. (Ex. 97A).
- 42. The supply of off-street parking in off-site lots will be sufficient to accommodate the expected stadium patrons' demand for parking: the Applicant is expected to secure approximately 3750 off-site spaces, which is part of an overall neighborhood availability of more than 7000 spaces. In addition, the locations of the off-site parking lots will be within a reasonable distance to the stadium such so that they will used by patrons. The average walking time from a parking lot to the stadium will be approximately 7.5 minutes, but patrons are willing to walk further distances to sporting events, so further lots will be used. Data from similarly-situated stadiums in other cities, such as Portland, demonstrate the viability of this condition. (Ex. 97A, 97B; 11/28 Tr. at 41).
- 43. The Applicant has provided enough detail in the preliminary TOPP that is feasible and reasonable at this time to assess the stadium's impacts. The Applicant's TOPP will be based on Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") standards, the TOPP for Nationals Stadium, and requests from DDOT. The TOPP will include pedestrian, bicycle, and transit measures, such as wayfinding and incentives; travel scenarios; parking measures, such as wayfinding and inventories; neighborhood protections, such as barriers and parking enforcement; curbside management for disabled transit and for-hire vehicles; traffic operations, such as signal timing, traffic control officers, and signage; and an operations manual/summary. The TOPP will evolve as conditions change, and so it is

not possible to solidify all of its elements now. The strategies may be developed beforehand, but the operations will be subject to ongoing change. (Ex. 97A, ___; 12/14 Tr. at 156-57).

- 44. The Applicant prepared a preliminary TOPP to address the concerns of neighbors and the ANC about having a more defined plan for the stadium's operations. The preliminary TOPP includes details concerning pedestrian, bicycle, and transit operations; parking operations; and stadium operations. It is unusual to have an operations plan for a stadium established so far ahead of its opening, but the preliminary TOPP gives sufficient detail for stadium operations to understand how the impact of the stadium on the transportation network will be mitigated. (Ex. ____.)
- 45. The Applicant will develop a complete draft of the TOPP with DDOT, the ANC, and other stakeholders six to 12 months prior to the opening of the stadium. This timeline is significantly earlier than FHWA guidelines, and sufficiently early that it will allow time for it to be reviewed by all stakeholders and optimized. Once the draft is issued, the Applicant will continue to revise the TOPP with feedback from stakeholders until the stadium opens. Once the stadium is open, the TOPP will be updated in coordination with DDOT and stakeholders as conditions at and around the stadium change. Updates will occur mid-season after the first several games and then will occur annually thereafter, or sooner if necessary. Drafting a TOPP any sooner than as the Applicant proposed is impractical because conditions are likely to change too much and because many of the stakeholders will not participate too far in advance. (Ex. 97A; 12/14 Tr. at 156-57).
- 46. Aside from off-site parking for stadium patrons, the Applicant has a plan for off-site parking for players, staff, and media. Players will be shuttled to and from games from their practice facility, where they will park their cars. On game days, staff will park in one of the off-site lots with which the Applicant has an agreement but is less desirable for patrons (likely further away). On non-game days, staff will be given monthly passes to park at one of the nearby public parking lots. For media, parking will be reserved in one of the closer lots with which the Applicant has an agreement. (Ex. 97A)
- 47. Disabled access to the stadium from parking lots and the Metrorail station are included in the preliminary TOPP. A parking lot will be designated for disabled patrons. A shuttle for disabled patrons will run between the Navy Yard and Anacostia Metrorail stations, the designated parking lot, and the stadium. In addition, curbside management component of the TOPP will accommodate disabled patrons. (Ex. 97A, ____).
- 48. The Applicant devised a plan for accommodating stadium patrons before, during, and after construction of the planned improvements on South Capitol Street at Potomac Avenue SW (the South Capital Oval). The Applicant's CTR analyzed conditions in the short term (no Oval) and long term (with Oval). Circulation diagrams in the record show how pedestrians and automobiles will arrive and depart the stadium via South Capitol Street before and after the construction of the Oval. Furthermore, during construction of the Oval, a DDOT-approved traffic control plan is required, which must include the ability to accommodate patrons to and from the stadium. (12/14 Tr. at 164-65).

- 49. Bicycle facilities, including routing and parking, will be sufficient to accommodate the stadium's staff and patrons. The bicycle facilities have been carefully planned to accommodate different cyclists. Ample bike parking will be provided where it is most likely to be used, namely racks at the northeast side of the stadium and along 2nd Street, Valet will be offered for different cyclists who want their bicycles more protected. Bikeshare will be accommodated through a new station and a corral. Bicyclists to the stadium will have access to a network of multi-use trails, protected bicycle facilities, and streets that facilitate cycling. Additional bicycle tracks and trails will be installed in the future as parts of different projects. All existing and planned routes and facilities will accommodate bicyclists arriving and departing the stadium. (Ex. 97A; 12/14 Tr. at 160-62).
- 50. Multiple reliable and extensive transportation studies for the Buzzard Point area, including the concept of a stadium, have been conducted by different parties. In addition to the Applicant's CTR and DC United Environmental Mitigation Study (Transportation section), DDOT has conducted at least three studies for the larger Buzzard Point area, including the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan, Southeast/Southwest Study, and the Buzzard Point Framework Plan Transportation Study. These studies consider the various travel modes, demand, general travel patterns, and other factors affecting the transportation network to and from Buzzard Point. (Ex. 19A, 19E, 19F, 37A, 43; 11/28 Tr. at 180-81, 204-05; 12/14 Tr. at 151-54).
- 51. While some of the Buzzard Point studies cited a streetcar, Metrobus, or Circulator line extension as components of a transportation plan for the stadium, these modes are not necessary for a viable plan. The CTR and DC United Environmental Mitigation Study (EMS) state that the primary means of transit use for stadium access is Metrorail and walking from the station. The streetcar, bus, and Circulator were considered to be secondary means, at best, due to their much lower capacity. None of the analysis of transit capacity and pedestrian accommodations contained in the EMS assumed that streetcar or bus service was available on game days, in order to demonstrate that sufficient capacity existed within the Metrorail and pedestrian system to accommodate the expected demand generated by the stadium. Furthermore, a streetcar or bus is not a prerequisite to the successful transportation operations plan for the stadium. (Ex. 19E, 19F, 37A; 11/28 Tr. at 183, 207-08; 12/14 Tr. at 155-56).
- 52. The transportation network in and out of Buzzard Point is sufficient to accommodate the stadium. Fourth Street SW is not expected to be the primary route for driving patrons to access the stadium, and there will be other primary routes and modes to the stadium. The Applicant's studies and other studies of Buzzard Point identify South Capitol Street and the Oval as the primary route to and from Buzzard Point, based on where most of the patrons are driving from. The TOPP will include measures to route traffic away from residential streets so that Half, 1st, 2nd, and 4th Streets SW are not primary routes. In addition, the Applicant will work with a provider of water taxi company to provide service to Buzzard Point that will provide stadium patrons with another transportation option. (Ex. _____; 12/14 Tr. at 158-59).

- 53. The traffic congestion at intersections that were studied in the CTR are not anticipated to get worse with the opening of the stadium with the identified mitigation measures, including the TDM plan and the operational strategies outlined in the preliminary TOPP. Event-based traffic operates differently than average day traffic in order to mitigate additional congestion at intersections. Such event-based operations will be part of the TOPP and will include measures such as manual control of intersections to direct movements as efficiently as possible. (Ex. 37A; 11/28 Tr. at 217).
- 54. Most of the vehicular traffic circulating to Buzzard Point to and from the Oval will use Half Street, and the Applicant's studies accounted for that expectation. The Applicant's studies did not demonstrate preferential routing of vehicular traffic using Half Street north of Potomac Avenue, however. Thus, Half Street will be an important vehicular connection to Buzzard Point but not one that will cause adverse traffic conditions in the nearby residential neighborhoods north of Potomac Avenue. (11/28 Tr. at 167-69).
- 55. The CTR includes a study of curbside inventory that may be used, routing diagrams, and a general concept of how the curbside will be used. And there will be sufficient curbside space for the stadium's patron's use, including accommodating the expected demand from taxis and other for-hire car services. A complete plan for curbside management will be included in the TOPP as conditions and modes are better known. (Ex. 19A, 37A; 12/14 Tr. at 153, 159-60).
- 56. The Applicant committed to working with DMPED and the Nationals to schedule events at both stadiums, to the greatest extent possible, that do not conflict. In the rare instance that games or events conflict, then the Applicant will work with DMPED and the Nationals to develop an operations plan to minimize the impacts on the neighborhood and city services, which is possible based on empirical evidence from other cities. Regular season game schedules for both professional baseball and soccer are prepared far enough in advance that it is feasible to avoid conflicting game schedules at both stadiums. The only real potential for conflict is post-season games (playoffs). However, based on the past three season schedules of the two teams, it is unlikely that games will ever conflict, even in the post-season. Thus, the potential for conflicting schedules is nominal and can be accommodated in the rare instance that it occurs. (Ex. 97, 97C, ___).
- 57. The Applicant agreed to all of DDOT's conditions and will work with DDOT to finalize the particulars of those conditions. Such conditions to which the Applicant agreed include coordination with the Nationals to avoid conflicting events, funding a Capital Bikeshare station, coordination with DDOT in the further development of the TOPP and curbside management, and developing strategies to encourage patrons using Metrorail use the Navy Yard station. (Ex. 43; 11/28 Tr. at 48).

Environment/Health Issues

58. The Applicant understands the importance of protecting the health of nearby residents during the site remediation and stadium construction. Therefore, the Applicant prepared thorough and complete plans to clean the site of contaminants and to protect the health of

nearby residents during remediation and excavation of the site and during construction of the stadium. The Applicant's environmental consultants prepared a Human Health Risk Assessment ("HHRA") that has been reviewed and approved by DOEE. The HHRA evaluated the site conditions and the risks from contaminants to various people types at or near the Property. The HHRA identified what must be cleaned on the Property and what measures need to be taken to best protect the health of nearby residents during site remediation and clean-up of the soil. (Ex.___; 12/14 Tr. at 123-29).

- 59. The Applicant will implement a Voluntary Clean-up Action Plan ("VCAP"). The VCAP will be implemented prior to construction of the stadium to remediate the Property of the identified harmful chemicals and contaminants. The site will pose much less of a health risk to nearby residents after it is cleaned than in its current condition. The VCAP was reviewed and approved by DOEE and is consistent with industry standards for such site remediation. (12/14 Tr. at 133, 140).
- 60. The Applicant will implement a dust and odor control plan ("DOCP") to adequately protect the health of nearby residents during the excavation and remediation of the soil on the Property, particularly with respect to respiratory health. The DOCP will ensure that during site excavation and remediation dangerous levels of contaminated particulates are controlled and do not drift in the air to nearby residents. The DOCP includes such measures as real-time dust monitors placed on the perimeter of Property to ensure that excessive dust is not leaving the Property during activity on the site, including excavation and stockpiling of soil. The dust monitors will alert on-site workers if acceptable levels are exceeded, and the on-site workers will make adjustments to activity or site conditions to reduce dust levels. The Applicant also will thoroughly cover the stockpiles of soil prior to removal to control wind-blown dust. In addition, the Applicant will monitor and mitigate dust leaving the site from trucks. The Applicant will submit regular dust monitoring reports to DOEE. The measures that will be implemented as part of the DOCP will meet industry standards for dust control and elimination. (Ex. 115, ___; 12/14 Tr. at 129-35, 138-39, 148-49).
- 61. The Applicant will implement a stormwater, runoff, and erosion control plan. This plan will ensure that excess stormwater and any use of water on the site will not create hazardous or dangerous conditions from contaminants on the Property entering water sources. (12/14 Tr. at 131, 147-48).
- 62. The Applicant presented the HHRA and DOCP to the community at a several public meetings, and the information was consistent throughout. Following the public hearing, the Applicant also met with representatives of the ANC regarding the Applicant's plans for environmental protection and agreed to provide supplemental information. (Ex. ____; 12/14 Tr. at 137-38).
- 63. The Applicant's environmental expert reviewed the Community Health and Safety Study ("CHASS") and the New Jersey Institute Review of the Voluntary Clean-up Action Plan ("NJITR") prepared by consultants to one of the organizations in opposition. To the extent that is reasonable and feasible, the Applicant will implement the best practices and

recommendations from the CHASS and the NJITR during site excavation and remediation. Accordingly, the HHRA, VCAP, and DOCP will sufficiently include the key recommendations of the CHASS and the NJITR to protect the health of nearby residents. (12/14 Tr. at 139-40).

- 64. The Applicant committed to providing \$50,000 for air filters for nearby residences. The funds will be provided to a third party organization that will procure and distribute the air filters. (Ex. ____).
- 65. Much of the dust contamination to which nearby residents are exposed is from sources other than the Property but also in Buzzard Point. The Applicant has the ability to limit dust generated only on the Property, and the DOCP will be effective in doing so. (Ex. ____).
- 66. The Applicant produced a sound study that recognized that the District's noise regulations do not contemplate an open air stadium. Accordingly, The Applicant will work with DMPED to create a sound plan to address noise concerns and mitigate noise generation from the stadium. (Ex. ___).

Agency Reports

- 67. By report dated November 18, 2016, and by testimony at the public hearing, OP recommended approval of the PUD subject to conditions and the provision of additional information, such as providing more information about lighting and a color and materials board. The Applicant agreed to the conditions and addressed these items with additional information at the public hearing and in two submissions. OP concluded that the PUD is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including the FLUM and GPM, and would further the objectives of the Land Use, Economic Development, Transportation, Urban Design, Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Arts and Culture, and Lower Anacostia Waterfront - Near Southwest Area elements. Also, OP concluded that the stadium and ancillary features, such as the realigned 1st Street and street-level retail, would align with the goals of the Buzzard Point Vision Framework Plan ("BPVFP"). OP evaluated the PUD under the evaluation standards set forth in Chapter 24 of the Zoning Regulations and concluded that the Project satisfies the standards. OP concluded that the Project will offer benefits and amenities with respect to urban design, site planning, effective and safe vehicular and pedestrian access, employment and training opportunities, and uses of special value embodied in the Applicant's Community Benefits Agreement. (Ex. 42; 11/28 Tr. at 178-80).
- 68. By report dated November 18, 2016 and by testimony at the public hearing, DDOT expressed no objection to the Project, with conditions. DDOT cited the numerous transportation studies for the Buzzard Point neighborhood and that infrastructure conditions in the neighborhood are expected to improve. DDOT concurred with the CTR's mode split and trip generation assumptions. DDOT concluded that the CTR appropriately reviewed the stadium's impacts and trip distribution methodologies. DDOT agreed that the walking distances to the stadium from the Metrorail stations are

reasonable for patrons. DDOT found that the stadium will create periods of concentrated automobile demand but that daily demand generated by the stadium will be minimal. DDOT also found that Metrorail is expected to carry the majority of stadium patrons and has the capacity to accommodate them. DDOT found that the Applicant's proposed TOPP, TDM plan, and other proffers will help alleviate strain on the transportation network. DDOT agreed that the TOPP will evolve over time. Further, DDOT stated that mitigations to be implemented by the District will improve transportation facilities and will help accommodate the stadium. (Ex. 43; 11/28 Tr. at 180-84).

69. By report dated November 18, 2016 and by testimony at the public hearing, DOEE recommended approval of the Project, with conditions. DOEE recommended that the Applicant explore on-site renewable energy generation, additional methods of storm water retention, and impacts of climate change. DOEE commended the improved design for the plaza, public park, and pocket parks. DOEE acknowledged the development of the Applicant's DOCP. (Ex. 40; 11/28 Tr. at 185-87)

ANC 6D Report

- 70. At a regularly-scheduled and duly-noted public meeting on October 17, 2016, with a quorum present, ANC 6D voted to oppose the proposed PUD. ANC 6D submitted a resolution stating that, while they support the concept of a stadium, they believe that there is an insufficient transportation plan for Buzzard Point as whole and an insufficient operations plan for the stadium. ANC 6D also expressed concerns about vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian routing; access to Buzzard Point; parking adequacy; transit availability and distance to the stadium; and conflicting events at both the stadium and Nationals Stadium. The resolution also expressed the ANC's concerns about the implementation of best management practices for site clean-up and remediation. The ANC recommended the adoption of additional plans and practices to protect the health of nearby residents during site remediation and stadium construction. (Ex. 29).
- 71. At the public hearing, a representative of the ANC testified in opposition to the application and reiterated the concerns in the resolution with additional explanation. In particular, the testimony focused on the ANC's concerns about transportation planning for Buzzard Point and the stadium's operations plan. The testimony also focused on the ANC's concerns about environmental issues, particularly with regard to protection of the health of nearby residents during site excavation and remediation. (12/14 Tr. at 4-37).
- 72. Following the public hearing, the ANC submitted _____ in response to additional materials that the Applicant filed. The ANC ______.

Testimony in Support

73. The Commission received many letters in support of the Application. Support letters were from nearby residents, neighboring property owners, and members of the D.C. Council. In particular, Pepco, a neighboring property owner, and the Capital Riverfront Business Improvement District wrote in support of the Application. Also,

Councilmembers David Grosso, Jack Evans, and Charles Allen wrote in support, expressing improvements to the high-quality design and site plan, the catalytic effect of the stadium, and community contributions of DC United. Many nearby residents also submitted letters in support of the Application, citing the importance of the stadium to the neighborhood and the high-quality design. (Ex. 36, 41, 80, 87, 51-72, 74-77, 99).

74. At the public hearing, multiple people testified in support of the Application. The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Developed testified in support on behalf of the Mayor, stating that the stadium will allow the removal and clean-up of industrial land, promote economic development and new jobs, and will provide benefits to the community and District. He also stated that DOEE has increased its enforcement against other properties in the area that generate dust and that the District will construct new infrastructure, including roadway improvements, around the stadium. Other supporters testified that the stadium will bring new jobs to the neighborhood and District and will have overall positive impacts including economic improvements from the stadium's catalytic effect. (11/28 Tr. at 7-11; 12/14 Tr at 38-39, 103-110).

Testimony in Opposition

- 75. The Commission received several letters in opposition to the Application. The letters stated concerns with adequate transportation infrastructure in Buzzard Point, traffic congestion on 4th Street SW, the absence of a transportation plan for Buzzard Point, and displacement of nearby residents. (Ex. 73, 78).
- 76. At the public hearing, multiple people testified in opposition to the Application. Testimony in opposition focused almost exclusively on transportation and environmental issues.
- 77. With respect to transportation, the testimony in opposition concerned the perceived absence of a comprehensive transportation plan for Buzzard Point (prepared by the District) and the lack of a detailed operations plan for the stadium. In addition, opponents testified about concerns over traffic, parking, and transit congestion. Additional testimony expressed concern about the potential problems when events are held at both the Nationals Stadium and the proposed stadium at overlapping times. (12/14 Tr. at 54, 57-59, 60-63).
- 78. With respect to the environment, the testimony in opposition expressed concern regarding the vulnerable residential population closest to the Property and concern that care is being taken to safeguard residents' respiratory health since the Property contains harmful chemicals. In particular, testimony expressed concern about ensuring the safety of nearby residents during site remediation, site excavation, and construction of the stadium, particularly with respect to fugitive dust control and rodent control. Testimony advocated for the adoption of the best practices from CHASS and the NJITR and a plan for site remediation and exposure limitation, including resident health monitoring and enforcement against other dust sources. Further testimony advocated for assessing the cumulative impacts of the stadium and for a baseline assessment of the health conditions

of nearby residents, acknowledging other contributing/polluting facilities in the neighborhood. Additional testimony contended that the stadium is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policies in the Environmental Protection Element concerning environmental hazards since impacts of such hazards would not be assessed. (11/28 Tr. at 92-98; 12/14 Tr. at 64-102).

Undeclared Testimony

79. Two people testified neither in support nor opposition to the Application. A representative of Casey Trees testified to recommend that the Zoning Commission adopt and the Applicant implement additional measures to increase tree canopy and coverage on the Property. Further, a representative of the Southwest Community Benefits Coordinating Council testified in support of the stadium plan and its benefits, and she testified regarding the need for adequate transportation planning and facilities as well as adequate health protections for nearby residents. (12/14 Tr. at 111-19).

Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan

- 80. The PUD will advance the goals and policies in the Land Use; Transportation; Economic Development; Urban Design; Parks Recreation & Open Space; Arts and Culture; and Lower Anacostia Waterfront/Near Southwest Area Elements of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan ("Plan").
- 81. The Land Use Element of the Plan includes the following policies advanced by the Project:
 - Policy LU-1.2.6: New Neighborhoods and the Urban Fabric On those large sites that are redeveloped as new neighborhoods (such as Reservation 13), integrate new development into the fabric of the city to the greatest extent feasible. Incorporate extensions of the city street grid, public access and circulation improvements, new public open spaces, and building intensities and massing that complement adjacent developed areas. Such sites should not be developed as self-contained communities, isolated or gated from their surroundings.
 - Policy LU-1.3.1: Station Areas as Neighborhood Centers Encourage the development of Metro stations as anchors for economic and civic development in locations that currently lack adequate neighborhood shopping opportunities and employment. The establishment and growth of mixed use centers at Metrorail stations should be supported as a way to reduce automobile congestion, improve air quality, increase jobs, provide a range of retail goods and services, reduce reliance on the automobile, enhance neighborhood stability, create a stronger sense of place, provide civic gathering places, and capitalize on the development and public transportation opportunities which the stations provide. This policy should not be interpreted to outweigh other land use policies which call for neighborhood conservation. Each Metro station area is unique and must be treated as such in planning and development decisions. The Future Land Use Map

expresses the desired intensity and mix of uses around each station, and the Area Elements (and in some cases Small Area Plans) provide more detailed direction for each station area.

- Policy LU-1.3.2: Development Around Metrorail Stations Concentrate redevelopment efforts on those Metrorail station areas which offer the greatest opportunities for infill development and growth, particularly stations in areas with weak market demand, or with large amounts of vacant or poorly utilized land in the vicinity of the station entrance. Ensure that development above and around such stations emphasizes land uses and building forms which minimize the necessity of automobile use and maximize transit ridership while reflecting the design capacity of each station and respecting the character and needs of the surrounding areas.
- Policy LU-1.3.4: Design To Encourage Transit Use Require architectural and site planning improvements around Metrorail stations that support pedestrian and bicycle access to the stations and enhance the safety, comfort and convenience of passengers walking to the station or transferring to and from local buses. These improvements should include lighting, signage, landscaping, and security measures. Discourage the development of station areas with conventional suburban building forms, such as shopping centers surrounded by surface parking lots.
- Policy LU-1.3.6: Parking Near Metro Stations Encourage the creative management of parking around transit stations, ensuring that automobile needs are balanced with transit, pedestrian, and bicycle travel needs. New parking should generally be set behind or underneath buildings and geared toward short-term users rather than all day commuters.
- **Policy LU-1.4.1: Infill Development** Encourage infill development on vacant land within the city, particularly in areas where there are vacant lots that create "gaps" in the urban fabric and detract from the character of a commercial or residential street. Such development should complement the established character of the area and should not create sharp changes in the physical development pattern.
- **Policy LU-2.1.2: Neighborhood Revitalization** Facilitate orderly neighborhood revitalization and stabilization by focusing District grants, loans, housing rehabilitation efforts, commercial investment programs, capital improvements, and other government actions in those areas that are most in need. Use social, economic, and physical indicators such as the poverty rate, the number of abandoned or substandard buildings, the crime rate, and the unemployment rate as key indicators of need.
- Policy LU-3.1.2: Redevelopment of Obsolete Industrial Uses Encourage the redevelopment of outmoded and non-productive industrial sites, such as vacant warehouses and open storage yards, with higher value production, distribution, and repair uses and other activities which support the core sectors of the District economy (federal government, hospitality, higher education, etc.).

The PUD will allow for the redevelopment of property previously identified by obsolete industrial uses and will revitalize the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Development of a Major League Soccer Stadium will facilitate revitalization of the under-utilized industrial area of Buzzard Point. In addition, the Project will concentrate development near a Metro station and design to encourage transit use while providing a creative parking solution for drivers. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9).

- 82. The Project will advance the following policies of the Transportation Element of the Plan:
 - **Policy T-1.1.4: Transit-Oriented Development** Support transit-oriented development by investing in pedestrian-oriented transportation improvements at or around transit stations, major bus corridors, and transfer points.
 - **Policy T-1.2.3: Discouraging Auto-Oriented Uses** Discourage certain uses, like "drive-through" businesses or stores with large surface parking lots, along key boulevards and pedestrian streets, and minimize the number of curb cuts in new developments. Curb cuts and multiple vehicle access points break-up the sidewalk, reduce pedestrian safety, and detract from pedestrian-oriented retail and residential areas.
 - **Policy T-3.2.2: Employing Innovations in Parking** Consider and implement new technologies to increase the efficiency, management, and ease of use of parking. These include consolidated meters, changeable parking meter fees by time of day or day of the week, shared-use parking, vertical/stacked parking, electronic ticketing of parking offenders and other innovations.

The PUD will result in improvements to the street network, bike and pedestrian facilities, and transit services in the Buzzard Point neighborhood. The stadium will incorporate a design and an operations plan that will encourage non-automobile transportation, and it will employ an innovative shared-parking scheme. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9).

83. The Project will advance the following policies of the Economic Development Element:

- **Policy ED-1.1.4: Competitive Edge** Maintain and enhance the District's competitive edge relative to the Metropolitan Washington region and United States markets in such industry sectors as government, professional services, education, health care and tourism. This will require continued government support and incentives for economic development programs, government participation in local economic development projects and initiatives, and strengthened capacity among local economic development organizations, community development corporations, and workforce development groups.
- **Policy ED-2.3.2: Visitor Attractions** Provide new and enhanced visitor attractions and entertainment venues in the District, particularly attractions that complement the traditional museums and monuments and draw more international visitors and young

adults to the city. New attractions should create a clear identity for the District as the region's major entertainment center.

- **Policy ED-2.3.4: Lodging and Accommodation** Support the development of a diverse range of hotel types, serving travelers with varying needs, tastes, and budgets. New hotels should be encouraged both within Central Washington and in outlying commercial areas of the city, particularly in areas which presently lack quality accommodation.
- **Policy ED-3.1.5: Public-Private Partnerships** Leverage the expenditure of public funds to produce private sector investments, including joint development on publicly-owned land and redevelopment in areas considered to be high risks by investors. Support the involvement of local community development corporations in commercial development and revitalization efforts within these areas.
- **Policy ED-3.1.6: Revitalization Planning** Link commercial revitalization strategies to capital budget priorities and larger neighborhood and transportation investment plans, including programs to improve transit to neighborhood centers.

The PUD will allow the development of a major league soccer stadium through a public-private partnership. This will result in significant investment toward revitalization of the Buzzard Point neighborhood and will help solidify the District's competitive edge in tourism in the region. Furthermore, the Applicant has entered into a First Source Agreement and a Certified Business Enterprise Agreement to provide jobs for District residents and for local and small businesses. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9, 42).

- 84. The Urban Design Element of the Plan includes the following policies that the Project will advance:
 - **Policy UD-1.1.4: Height Act of 1910** Protect the civic and historical character of the city, particularly the "horizontal" urban quality of Central Washington, by limiting building heights in accordance with the Height Act of 1910. Basic principles of the Height Act are shown in Figure 9.4.
 - **Policy UD-1.2.4: View Protection** Recognize and protect major views in the city, particularly characteristic views of city landmarks, and views from important vantage points. Recognize the importance of views to the quality of life in the city and the identity of Washington and its neighborhoods.
 - **Policy UD-1.3.1: DC as a Waterfront City** Strengthen Washington's civic identity as a waterfront city by promoting investment along the Anacostia River, creating new water-related parks, improving public access to and along the shoreline, and improving the physical and visual connections between the waterfront and adjacent neighborhoods.
 - **Policy UD-1.3.3: Excellence in Waterfront Design** Require a high standard of design for all waterfront projects, with an emphasis on shoreline access, integration of historic features and structures, an orientation toward the water, and the creation of new water-oriented public amenities.
 - **Policy UD-1.3.5: River Views:** Protect and enhance river views in the design of buildings, bridges, and pedestrian walkways on or near waterfront sites. The

scale, density and building form along the city's waterfronts should define the character of these areas as human-scale, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and should protect views from important sites. Figure 9.5 (at left) illustrates preservation of river views on waterfront development sites.

- **Policy UD-1.3.6: "Activating" Waterfront Spaces** Encourage design approaches, densities, and mixes of land uses that enliven waterfront sites. Architectural and public space design should be conducive to pedestrian activity, provide a sense of safety, create visual interest, and draw people to the water.
- **Policy UD-1.3.7: Neighborhood Connectivity** Improve the physical connections between neighborhoods and nearby waterfronts. Where feasible, extend the existing city grid into large waterfront sites to better connect nearby developed areas to the shoreline.
- **Policy UD-2.2.1: Neighborhood Character and Identity** Strengthen the defining visual qualities of Washington's neighborhoods. This should be achieved in part by relating the scale of infill development, alterations, renovations, and additions to existing neighborhood context.

The Project will 1) bring a new high-profile professional soccer stadium to the neighborhood and city, 2) develop an underused site currently used for low-scale automobile oriented industries and parking, 3) promote the goal of infill development, 4) act as a major catalyst for redeveloping Buzzard Point and the Anacostia River waterfront pursuant to the Buzzard Point Vision Framework, and 5) contribute to the draw of a larger sports and entertainment district initiated by the Nationals Stadium by providing another large civic venue for year-round use. All of these facts will contribute to the policies in the Plan. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9, 42).

- 85. The PUD will advance the following action from the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the Plan:
- Action PROS-3.2.A: Anacostia River Park Improvements Work collaboratively with the federal government, the private sector, community and non-profit groups, and the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation to implement the open space improvement plans of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

The PUD will include the creation of a new public park and other open space in the vicinity of the Anacostia Riverfront. (Ex. 1, 1A).

86. The PUD will advance the following policy from the Arts and Culture Element of the Plan:

• **Policy AC-3.2.1: Promoting Cultural Amenities** – Promote the development of cultural amenities "beyond the Mall" in an effort to more fully capitalize on the economic benefits of tourism for District residents, businesses, and neighborhoods.

The PUD will result in the development of a major destination beyond the National Mall that, in addition to hosting professional sporting events, could host other arts and cultural activities. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9, 42).

- 87. The PUD will promote the following policies from the Lower Anacostia Waterfront Near Southwest Area Element of the Plan:
 - Policy AW-1.1.2: New Waterfront Neighborhoods Create new mixed use neighborhoods on vacant or underutilized waterfront lands, particularly on large contiguous publicly-owned waterfront sites. Within the Lower Anacostia Waterfront/Near Southwest Planning Area, new neighborhoods should be developed at the Southwest Waterfront, Buzzard Point, Poplar Point, Southeast Federal Center and Carrollsburg areas. These neighborhoods should be linked to new neighborhoods upriver at Reservation 13, Poplar Point, and Kenilworth-Parkside. A substantial amount of new housing and commercial space should be developed in these areas, reaching households of all incomes, types, sizes, and needs.
 - **Policy AW-1.1.6: Pedestrian Orientation of Waterfront Uses** Provide a high level of pedestrian amenities along the shoreline, including informational and interpretive signs, benches and street furniture, and public art.
 - **Policy AW-1.1.7: Multi-modal Waterfront Streets** Design streets along the waterfront to be truly multi-modal, meeting the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users as well as motor vehicles. Safe pedestrian crossings, including overpasses and underpasses, should be provided to improve waterfront access.
 - **Policy AW-1.2.2: Waterfront Cultural and Commemorative Sites** Encourage the siting of new museums, memorials, civic gathering places, and cultural attractions on or near the Anacostia River as a way to catalyze revitalization and meet the demand for additional commemorative works without further crowding the National Mall and monumental core of the city. Such facilities should make the most of their waterfront locations and create an integrated system of gracious, beautiful, and vibrant places.
 - **Policy AW-1.2.3: Waterfront Sports and Recreation Destinations** Develop new destinations for sports, recreation, and celebration on or near the Anacostia waterfront. Ensure that these destinations are served by adequate and efficient transportation systems and infrastructure.
 - **Policy AW-2.2.7: Buzzard Point** Support the long-term redevelopment of Buzzard Point with mixed medium- to high-density commercial and residential uses. Recognize the opportunity for innovative design and architecture in this area, and for the creation of a unique urban waterfront.

The Project will facilitate the development of a professional soccer stadium in the Buzzard Point neighborhood, particularly with greater attention to the relationship of the stadium to surrounding character and circulation patterns. It will create a destination that

will encourage infrastructure and other development in Buzzard Point. Its design will have particular sensitivity to connecting the waterfront. (Ex. 1, 1A, 9, 37B, 42).

88. The Project will align with and advance the goals of the BPVFP. Though the BPVFP is not part of the Comprehensive Plan and is not intended to be a small area plan adopted by the D.C. Council, it is intended to inform development decisions for the next 10-15 years to accommodate the long-planned growth of Buzzard Point, including stadium design parameters. The stadium will advance the urban design concepts for a mixed-use neighborhood by promoting neighborhood connectivity, improved environmental conditions, public realm improvements, and limited stadium parking. (Ex. 1, 42).

Compliance with PUD Standards

- 89. In evaluating a PUD application, the Commission must "judge, balance, and reconcile the relative value of project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and any potential adverse effects." The Commission finds that the development incentives for the height and flexibility are appropriate and fully justified by the public benefits and project amenities proffered by the Applicant. The Commission finds that the Applicant has satisfied its burden of proof under the Zoning Regulations regarding the requested flexibility from the Zoning Regulations and satisfaction of the PUD standards and guidelines as set forth in the Applicant's evidence and testimony and the OP report.
- 90. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant and its architectural expert as well as OP, DDOT, and DOEE and finds that the superior architecture, site planning, transportation planning and management, environmentally sustainable features, employment opportunities, and uses of special value of the Project all constitute acceptable project amenities and public benefits.
- 91. Based on the Applicant's testimony and OP's report, the Commission finds that the Project is acceptable in all proffered categories of public benefits and project amenities, and is superior in public benefits and project amenities relating to urban design and architecture, site planning, effective and safe vehicular and pedestrian access, employment opportunities, and uses of special value to the neighborhood and District as a whole.
- 92. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant regarding the community-based planning effort that guided the development of the Project, and finds that the process resulted in amenities that reflect community preferences and priorities. The Commission credits the testimony of OP that the PUD provides significant and sufficient public benefits and project amenities. (Ex. 42; 11/28 Tr. at 49-53).
- 93. The Commission finds that the character, scale, uses, and design of the Project are appropriate, and finds that the Project is consistent with the intent and purposes of the PUD process to encourage high quality developments that provide public benefits.

- 94. The Commission credits the testimony of OP that the Project will provide benefits and amenities of value to the community and the District commensurate with the flexibility and additional height sought through the PUD.
- 95. For the reasons detailed in this Order, the Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant's traffic consultant and DDOT and finds that the traffic, parking, and other transportation impacts of the Project on the surrounding area will not be unacceptable and are capable of being mitigated through the measures proposed by the Applicant and DDOT and are acceptable given the quality of the public benefits of the PUD.
- 96. For the reasons detailed in this Order, the Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant's consultants and finds that the environmental and health impacts of the Project on the surrounding area will not be unacceptable and are capable of being mitigated through the multiple clean-up, remediation, mitigation, monitoring, and containment measures planned by the Applicant (and approved by DOEE) are acceptable given the quality of the public benefits of the PUD.
- 97. The Commission credits the testimony of OP and the Applicant that the Project is not inconsistent with the Plan and promotes multiple policies and goals in the citywide and area elements of the Plan.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- Pursuant to the Zoning Regulations, the PUD process provides a means for creating a "well-planned development." The objectives of the PUD process are to promote "sound project planning, efficient and economical land utilization, attractive urban design and the provision of desired public spaces and other amenities." 11 DCMR § 2400.1. The overall goal of the PUD process is to permit flexibility of development and other incentives, provided that the PUD project "offers a commendable number or quality of public benefits, and that it protects and advances the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience." 11 DCMR § 2400.2.
- 2. Under the PUD process, the Commission has the authority to consider this Application as a consolidated PUD. 11 DCMR § 2402.5. The Commission may impose development conditions, guidelines and standards that may exceed or be less than the matter-of-right standards identified for height, FAR, lot occupancy, parking, loading, yards and courts. The Commission may also approve uses that are permitted as special exceptions and would otherwise require approval by the Board of Zoning Adjustment. 11 DCMR § 2405.
- 3. The proposed PUD meets the minimum area requirements of 11 DCMR § 2401.1.
- 4. Proper notice of the proposed PUD was provided in accordance with the requirements of the Zoning Regulations.

- 5. The development of the Project will implement the purposes of Chapter 24 of the Zoning Regulations to encourage well-planned developments that will offer a building type with more attractive and efficient overall planning and design not achievable under matter-of-right standards. Here, the height, character, scale, uses, and design of the proposed PUD are appropriate, and the proposed construction of a new professional soccer stadium that will improve obsolete industrial land in a transit-oriented and redevelopment-targeted location is compatible with the citywide and area plans of the District of Columbia.
- 6. The Commission finds that the Project advances the goals and policies in the citywide and area elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including:
 - a. Land Use Element policies promoting redevelopment around Metrorail stations, design to encourage transit use, parking near Metrorail stations, infill development, neighborhood revitalization, and redevelopment of obsolete industrial land;
 - b. Transportation Element policies promoting transit-oriented development, discouraging automobile-oriented uses, and innovative parking solutions;
 - c. Economic Development Element policies promoting maintenance of the District's competitive edge with regard to tourism; creating visitor attraction; public-private partnerships, revitalization planning; and job creation;
 - d. Urban Design Element policies promoting investment along the Anacostia River, protecting important views, enhancing river views, activating waterfront land, improving connections between the waterfront and neighborhoods, and strengthening neighborhood character and identity;
 - e. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Arts and Culture Elements related to Anacostia Riverfront improvements and promoting cultural amenities;
 - f. Lower Anacostia Waterfront Near Southwest Area Element policies promoting new waterfront neighborhoods, pedestrian-oriented waterfront uses, multi-modal waterfront streets, and waterfront cultural sites.
- 7. The Commission concludes that approval of the PUD is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and will advance policies in the BPVFP.
 - a. The Commission agrees with the OP and the Applicant that the Project will advance the multiple polices of the Plan and the BPVFP cited above.
 - b. The Commission agrees with the determination of OP and finds that the Project is not inconsistent with the Property's High Density Commercial/High Density Residential designation on the FLUM and with the Property's designation as a Land Use Change Area on the GPM.

- c. The Commission finds that the Project is not inconsistent with the Environmental Protection Element. The multitude of environmental monitoring and safeguard measures that the Applicant will implement will ensure that the environment as well as the health and safety of nearby residents are adequately protected.
 - i. An opponent cited two paragraphs from the Environmental Protection Element (617.1 and 617.2) and alleged the necessity of a comprehensive report regarding the environmental impact of the PUD. (Ex. 101A). The Commission acknowledges this allegation but finds that further study of the site is not warranted. As described in the findings of fact, the Applicant's HHRA thoroughly assessed the site conditions and what must be cleaned to protect health and the environment, including air and water.¹
 - ii. An opponent stated that the Commission "cannot consider the planning review in this case to be one of high enforcement, or transparency, or creatively seeking mitigation conditions [sic]" and cited policies E-3.4.2 and E-3.4.4 and Action E.4.C. The Commission disagrees that the environmental decisions have not been transparent, are not monitored, and that applicable laws are not being enforced. As described in the findings of fact, the Applicant prepared studies and plans regarding clean up and monitoring that were reviewed and approved by DOEE and were presented to the ANC and community. Furthermore, as described in the findings of fact, the Applicant will continue to file remediation and monitoring reports with DOEE and the community consistent with applicable laws requirements. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the Project will not be inconsistent with these policies.
- 8. The PUD will be within the applicable height and bulk standards of the Zoning Regulations. The proposed height and density will not cause an adverse effect on nearby properties, are consistent with the height and density of surrounding and nearby properties, and will create a more appropriate and efficient utilization of a prominent, transit-oriented site. The use also will be appropriate for the Project's location
- 9. The Project will provide superior features that benefit the surrounding neighborhood to a significantly greater extent than a matter-of-right development on the Property would provide. The Commission finds that the urban design, site planning, efficient and safe traffic circulation, environmental sustainability, and uses of special value all are significant public benefits. The impact of the Project will be acceptable given the quality of the public benefits of the Project.
- 10. The Commission finds that the Project will not cause unacceptable impacts on vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic; roadways and sidewalks; public transit infrastructure;

¹ The opponent cites a list of Comprehensive Plan directives and policies, but he does not make any allegations or offer explanation as to why the Project would be inconsistent with these particular directives and policies. Accordingly, these policies and directives are not material contested issues about which the Commission can make a finding or conclusion. (*See* Ex. 101A).

neighborhood parking; or other transportation-related facilities and conditions. Based on the Applicant's expert testimony and DDOT's testimony and the findings of fact described above, the Commission finds that the Project will not result in adverse impacts on the surrounding transportation network.

- a. The Commission finds that the Project will not impose adverse impacts on the surrounding transportation network with the Applicant's adoption of DDOT's conditions and the implementation of the Applicant's TDM plan and the development and implementation of the TOPP. The Commission credits the findings of the Applicant's traffic expert as verified by DDOT that the Project will not create any adverse impacts based on the stadium's design features and transportation programs.
- b. The Commission finds that the District has provided a sufficient amount of study and planning for the Buzzard Point neighborhood to assess the impacts of the stadium. The Commission recognizes the concerns of the ANC and other members of the community that there is insufficient planning for Buzzard Point, but the Commission disagrees. Such studies and plans provide a background and framework on which the key findings of the CTR may be reasonably based and on which the TOPP may be reasonably developed.
- c. The Commission finds that the Applicant has provided sufficient detail for the stadium's transportation operations plan (TOPP) to understand accommodations for various populations (drivers, bicyclists, handicapped, for-hire vehicles, etc.) to assess the stadium's impact. The Applicant's preliminary TOPP provides significantly more detail than is typical for such plans at this stage, so it provides the Commission and the community a clear basis on which to make a determination. The Commission recognizes the ANC's desire for a more detailed TOPP but disagrees that a completely developed TOPP is necessary at this time. In addition, the Commission agrees that the TOPP will need to evolve through the stadium's life and will do so with community consultation.
- d. The Commission finds that Metrorail will be the dominant mode of transportation and that the transit infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate stadium patrons. Further, the Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant that walking from the Metrorail station will be feasible.
- e. The Commission finds that the location and number of off-site automobile parking spaces will adequately accommodate stadium patrons, staff, players, and media. The Commission recognizes the ANC's and community's concerns regarding the adequacy of the number of spaces and their distance from the stadium, but the Commission agrees with the Applicant that the parking plan has enough certainty to conclude that the parking plan will not cause adverse parking conditions in the neighborhood.

- f. The Commission finds that the stadium will include adequate bicycle infrastructure and facilities to accommodate anticipated demand from stadium patrons. The Commission credits the testimony of the Applicant that sufficient bicycle parking, Capital Bikeshare, and bicycle routes will exist.
- g. The Commission finds that the Applicant's CTR and preliminary TOPP provide sufficient information and guidance for accommodating existing and future conditions in the neighborhood, such as the construction of the South Capitol Street Oval and routes in and out of Buzzard Point. The Commission recognizes the ANC's concerns regarding the transportation operations during and after the South Capitol Street Oval construction but finds that the District and the Applicant have provided reasonable plans and process for accommodating such changes. In addition, the Commission acknowledges the ANC's concerns regarding the use of 4th Street SW and Half Street SW as primary routes in and out of Buzzard Point, but it does not find these concerns to be compelling. The Commission credits the Applicant's testimony regarding plans and processes to limit the use of these streets and route traffic primarily to South Capitol Street via Potomac Avenue.
- h. The Commission finds that traffic congestion in the neighborhood will not, on the whole, become worse because of the stadium. The Commission credits the Applicant's testimony that traffic can be adequately routed so that it will not create substantially more congestion on nearby residential streets and that traffic operations during events will be controlled differently. The Commission acknowledges the ANC's concerns about additional congestion blocking 4th Street SW and other residential streets thereby creating a safety hazard, but the Commission does not agree that this is a compelling concern. The Commission finds that that the Applicant has sufficiently planned for congestion and will adopt adequate measures to limit congestion and control traffic during events.
- i. The Commission finds that simultaneous events at the stadium and Nationals Stadium are avoidable and can be accommodated if necessary. The Commission recognizes the ANC's and others' concerns regarding conflicting events, but it does not agree that such occurrences are an inevitability. The Commission credits the Applicant's testimony that conflicts largely can be avoided and that plans and operations can be developed if they were to occur.
- 11. The Commission finds that the Project will not result in adverse health impacts to nearby residents or workers due to site remediation, site excavation, or construction. The Commission acknowledges the concerns of the ANC and other residents that the health of nearby residents may be compromised by the Project, but it is not persuaded. The Applicant thoroughly studied the Property for contaminants and will implement a plan for remediation that will exceed industry standards. The remediated site will be safer for residents than the existing conditions. In addition, the Applicant will implement a robust dust control and monitoring plan to control dust and contaminated soil from leaving the Property; this plan will exceed industry standards. Furthermore, the Applicant's plans

for remediation and monitoring will be consistent will industry best practices. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the Applicant's processes for the Project will sufficiently protect nearby residents, construction workers, and others from any potential adverse health impacts that may be caused by exposure from contaminants on the Property.

- 12. The Commission finds that the Project will not have adverse impacts on quality of life for nearby or District residents. The Commission acknowledges the testimony of one opponent that nearby residents will be threatened by the Project and have been overlooked in its planning, but the Commission disagrees.² The public benefits of the Project as well as its many transportation impact mitigation strategies and site clean-up and monitoring strategies will ensure the quality of life does not decline for nearby residents, and the economic impact of the Project likely will help nearby residents. Furthermore, the planning for the Project involved extensive public outreach and involvement, and the community will continue to be involved.
- 13. The Commission finds that the Project will generate new jobs and will have an overall positive effect on the economy of the Buzzard Point neighborhood. The Commission acknowledges opponent testimony regarding jobs and small business, but it does not agree that these are issues that would result in adverse conditions.³ While the exact types and numbers of jobs may not yet be known, the Applicant entered into multiple agreements with the District for the filling of the new jobs. These agreements include processes for finding suitable candidates and allocating jobs for District and neighborhood residents.
- 14. The Commission finds that the Project will not have an unacceptable impact on public services. The Commission recognizes opponent testimony regarding the adequacy of public systems serving the Project, but it disagrees.⁴ The Applicant provided data concerning water usage. (Ex. 1). OP solicited comments from the various public services, including MPD, FEMS, DC Water, and DPW and incorporated such comments into OP's report in assessing the overall impacts of the Project. "OP has worked with the Applicant and other District agencies to obtain additional information and to address concerns noted by the Zoning Commission, including regular meetings with the development team...and others... In general, at the interagency meeting, DC Water indicated that they were working with the design team to complete necessary calculations and complete permit review. MPD indicated that they would work closely with DC United and DDOT as the TOPP is developed." (Ex. 42, p. 21). Therefore, the Commission finds that the public services adequately assessed the Project's impacts and that there is no basis to believe that such impacts would not be acceptable.

 $^{^2}$ The opponent cites "relevant" Comprehensive Plan policies to support his position, but he does not make any allegations or offer explanation as to why the Project would be inconsistent with these particular policies. Accordingly, these policies are not material contested issues about which the Commission can make a finding or conclusion. (Ex. 88).

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

- 15. The Commission finds that the Project will not have an unacceptable impact on land values and affordable housing availability in the neighborhood. The Commission acknowledges opponent testimony regarding concerns and questions about disruptive land values and loss of affordable housing, but it is not persuaded that the Project will have such impacts.⁵ OP solicited comments from DHCD and incorporated such comments into OP's report if applicable in assessing the overall impacts of the Project. Furthermore, "OP has worked with the Applicant and other District agencies to obtain additional information and to address concerns noted by the Zoning Commission, including regular meetings with the development team, DMPED, DDOT, DOEE, *and others*." (emphasis added) (Ex. 42, p. 21). Therefore, the Commission finds that land values and affordable housing were appropriately assessed with the respect to the Project's overall impacts.
- 16. The PUD and rezoning for the Property will promote orderly development of the Property in conformance with the District of Columbia zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Map of the District of Columbia.
- 17. The Commission is required under D.C. Official Code § 6-623.04 to give great weight to OP recommendations. OP recommended approval with conditions to which the Applicant sufficiently agreed. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that approval of the consolidated PUD should be granted in accordance with OP's recommendation.
- 18. In accordance with D.C. Official Code § 1-309.10(d), the Commission must give great weight to the written issues and concerns of the affected ANC. The Commission accorded the issues and concerns raised by ANC 6D the "great weight" to which they are entitled, and in so doing fully credited the unique vantage point that ANC 6D holds with respect to the impact of the proposed application on the ANC's constituents. ANC 6C recommended denial pending the addressing of several concerns. The Commission concludes that the Applicant has responded to and addressed these concerns and, accordingly, the PUD should be approved.
 - a. The ANC opposed the Application based on concerns about adverse impacts on the transportation infrastructure, including insufficient planning for Buzzard Point, insufficient operations plan for the stadium, routing to the stadium, Buzzard Point access, parking adequacy, transit adequacy and distance, and conflicting events at the Nationals Stadium. However, for the reasons stated above in Findings of Fact _____ and Conclusions of Law _____, the Commission finds that the concerns of the ANC have been adequately addressed and are not compelling reasons to deny the Application.
 - b. The ANC also opposed the Application based on concerns about environmental concerns and the health protection of nearby residents. In particular, the ANC expressed concerns about the use of best practices during site excavation and remediation and recommended additional plans and practices for the protection of

neighbor health during excavation, remediation, and construction. However, for the reasons stated above in Findings of Fact _____ and Conclusions of Law ____, the Commission finds that the ANC's concerns have been sufficiently addressed and does not find them to be reasons to deny the Application.

19. The Applicant is subject to compliance with D.C. Law 2-38, the Human Rights Act of 1977.

DECISION

In consideration of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order, the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia orders **APPROVAL** of the Application for a consolidated PUD for the Property. This approval is subject to the following guidelines, conditions, and standards of this Order:

Project Development

- 1. The Project shall be developed in accordance with the plans marked as Exhibits 37B and 97F of the Record, as modified by guidelines, conditions, and standards herein (collectively, the "Plans").
- 2. The Applicant shall have flexibility with the design of the PUD in the following areas:
 - A. To vary the location and design of all interior components, including partitions, structural slabs, doors, hallways, columns, stairways, mechanical rooms, elevators, and toilet rooms, provided that the variations do not change the exterior configuration or appearance of the structure;
 - B. To vary final selection of the exterior materials within the color ranges and materials types as proposed based on availability at the time of construction;
 - C. To vary the final selection of landscaping materials utilized, based on availability and suitability at the time of construction;
 - D. To vary the final streetscape design and materials for improvements in the public space in response to direction received from District public space permitting authorities such as DDOT and the Public Space Committee;
 - E. To make minor refinements to exterior details and dimensions, including balcony enclosures, belt courses, sills, bases, cornices, railings, trim, louvers, or any other changes to comply with Construction Codes or that are otherwise necessary to obtain a final building permit, or to address the structural, mechanical, or operational needs of the building uses or systems;

- F. To make minor adjustments to the final designs of the public park and plazas/open spaces;
- G. To make minor adjustments to the final designs of the 1st Street retail frontages in response to the requirements of specific retailers; and
- H. To make minor adjustments to the final designs of all signs on the stadium consistent with the locations, sizes, materials, and other standards described in the signage guidelines included as Exhibit 97F in the Record.

Public Benefits

- 3. The Applicant shall provide the community benefits stated in Finding of Fact _____ in accordance with the Community Benefits Agreement between the Applicant, ANC 6D, and the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council.
- 4. The Project shall be designed to meet the LEED Gold standard. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the Applicant shall submit to the Zoning Administrator a LEED scorecard indicating the points that the Project will attain.

Mitigation

- 5. The Applicant shall implement the transportation demand management ("TDM") plan as described on pages 32-33 of Exhibit 37A1 of the Record.
- 6. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the Project, the Applicant shall pay the cost of installing a new Capital Bikeshare station in the vicinity of the Project. The exact station location, number of stalls, and number of bikes shall be determined by DDOT.
- 7. Prior to the first event at the stadium, in consultation with DDOT and other relevant District agencies, the Applicant shall adopt a final TOPP substantially similar to the preliminary TOPP included as Exhibit ____ in the Record. The Applicant shall be permitted to modify the final TOPP in consultation with DDOT, other relevant agencies, and stakeholders in response to changing conditions and information.
- 8. The Applicant shall work with DMPED to prepare a sound plan concerning noise generation at the stadium.
- 9. The Applicant shall work with DMPED and the Nationals to avoid scheduling events, to the greatest extent possible, that occur at overlapping times at both stadiums.

Miscellaneous

- 10. The Applicant (or another party) shall be required to apply to the Zoning Commission for approval of a modification of consequence for the final design of the separate retail building located at the northeast corner of 1st and T Streets SW prior to receiving a building permit for that building.
- 11. The Applicant (or another party, as applicable) shall be required to apply to the Zoning Commission for design review and approval for the development of the ancillary Parcel B, the development parcel east of 1st Street SW between the new public park and S Street SW and as indicated in Exhibit 37B in the Record.
- 12. No building permit shall be issued for this project until the owner of the Property has recorded a covenant among the land records of the District of Columbia between the owners and the District of Columbia that is satisfactory to the Office of the Attorney General and the Zoning Division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Such covenant shall bind the owner of the Property and all successors in title to construct on or use the Property in accordance with this Order and any amendment thereof by the Zoning Commission.
- 13. The Application approved by this Commission shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this Order. Within such time, an application must be filed for a building permit as specified in 11 DCMR § 2409.1.
- 14. The Applicant shall file with the Zoning Administrator a letter identifying how it is in compliance with the conditions of this Order at such time as the Zoning Administrator requests and shall simultaneously file that letter with the Office of Zoning.
- 15. The Applicant is required to comply fully with the provisions of the Human Rights Act of 1977, D.C. Law 2-38, as amended, and this order is conditioned upon full compliance with those provisions. In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 et seq., ("Act") the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is also prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is also prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action. The failure or refusal of the applicant to comply shall furnish grounds for denial or, if issued, revocation of any building permits or certificates of occupancy issued pursuant to this order.

On February 16, 2017, the Zoning Commission **APPROVED** the application for the PUD and **ADOPTED** this Order by a vote of _____.

In accordance with the provisions of 11 DCMR § 2038, this Order shall become final and effective upon publication in the *D.C. Register*; that is, on _____.