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July 7, 2016

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia  
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210S  
Washington, D.C. 20001


Dear Chairman Hood and Zoning Commissioners,

I understand that JBG has filed two PUD applications regarding the proposed redevelopment of the 16-acre site of the Marriott Wardman Park. Apparently, the first application specifically relates to the proposed construction of an eight-story, 120-unit multifamily building fronting on Woodley Road. The second application concerns an overall plan for the full site. At this point in the process, I would urge the Zoning Commission to not set down the applications.

Given the size of the campus to be developed, a comprehensive approach should and must be taken. Collaboration with the Office of Planning, the Department of Transportation, and the neighborhood should be pursued so that the Zoning Commission can properly evaluate and approve a proposal that sufficiently speaks to the types of issues that a redevelopment of this size will surely raise. The opportunity to plan on such a scale and with the potential posed by a site that is both situated on major transportation hubs and ensconced in a neighborhood on three sides should not be lost. Proceeding piecemeal—approving one building with an eye to a substantially larger development just around the corner—squanders that opportunity and limits the ability for a comprehensive vision.

The Marriott Wardman Park development will surely elicit strong emotions on all sides. Major issues—not least of which is the lease of the Marriott hotel—remain unresolved. And the opportunity to view a comprehensive, future-focused plan should not be lost. For all these reasons, I hope that you will delay a set down.

Regards,

  
Mary M. Cheh

cc: Eric Shaw, Director of the Office of Planning