



ANC3D-03 • ANC3D-05

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Washington, D.C. 20016

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ANC3D-05
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September 5, 2018

Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairperson
Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Hood,

The purpose of this writing is to correct the record as it relates to a letter signed by Chairperson Steve Gardner in Exhibit 238 (the “Kravitz letter”). We would have submitted this writing to the Zoning Commission (ZC) before now but, by the time we were informed of the existence of Exhibit 238, the record had closed. Exhibit 238, which reads like a resolution, claims that the statements made therein are the official position of ANC3D. They are not.

On July 11, 2018, at the regularly scheduled meeting of ANC3D, Chairperson Gardner admitted to ANC3D, and the community, that Exhibit 238 was actually penned by Commissioner Troy Kravitz. Presumably, Kravitz shared Exhibit 238 with no one other than Gardner before Gardner signed it, and filed it in the case log.

On June 25, 2018, at a public meeting, the ZC granted Valor Development, LLC’s third request to delay the ZC’s final deliberations on this case. Three days beforehand, the Kravitz letter was filed which contains an extensive discussion of – not just the deferral request itself – but the merits of Valor’s application. Among other surprising proclamations, Kravitz states “We believe these changes substantially improve the project by addressing and reducing some potential objections to the plans while still returning a full-service grocery store to the site.”

The irony here is that no “changes” to Valor’s proposal had yet been released – to anyone. The letter goes forward to say “These changes are not a surprise to ANC3D. We have

known about them for several months and, in fact, we helped foster their development.” If any ANC Commissioner – Kravitz or otherwise – has given aid to the developer in the planning process it is news to the full Commission. This notion also presents a concerning conflict of interest between Kravitz’s duty to represent the community, versus help a real estate developer craft a complex and controversial housing proposal.

Unfortunately, this marks the second time we have taken action to correct misleading statements made in letter(s), signed by Gardner, that received neither a vote, nor open discussion in a public forum. As was the case the first time (i.e. Exhibit 227), we had neither seen, nor were we afforded an opportunity to review Exhibit 238 prior to its appearance in the case log. Furthermore, to our knowledge, no other ANC3D Commissioner had seen, nor had the opportunity to review Exhibit 238 prior to its appearance in the case log.

As such, we ask that you treat Kravitz’s statements in Exhibit 238 (whatever they mean) as those which he has made as a citizen, in his personal capacity. They do not reflect the official position of ANC3D in this matter.

Sincerely,



Holmes Whalen
Commissioner
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Alma H. Gates
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