

Government of the District of Columbia


Department of Transportation



d. Planning and Sustainability Division

MEMORANDUM

TO: District of Columbia Zoning Commission

FROM: Anna Chamberlin
Associate Director 

DATE: April 26, 2023

SUBJECT: ZC Case No. 20-08B – 1901-1911 5th Street NW (Howard University)

APPLICATION

Howard University (the “Applicant”), pursuant to Title 11 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) (Zoning Regulations), requests a Special Exception for an interim university use at three (3) attached Applicant owned row homes, which formerly served as a day care for Howard University Hospital employees until 2010 and are currently vacant.

The Applicant is requesting to use the 7,000 SF space for five (5) years and be occupied by 25-30 office employees while the Stem and Health Sciences Complex is being constructed. The site is in the RF-1 Zone at 1901-1911 5th St NW (Square 3090, Lot 41) and is not served by a public alley, but has an existing eight (8) space surface parking lot accessed via 5th Street NW.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the application materials and has determined that the proposed action may lead to a minor increase in vehicle, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle trips on the localized transportation network. In addition, the project may result in increased pick-up and drop-off activity and slightly reduced availability of on-street parking within the immediate area. Despite these minor potential impacts, DDOT has no objection to the approval of this application.

STREETScape AND PUBLIC REALM

DDOT’s lack of objection to this application should not be viewed as an approval of the public realm design. If any portion of this or future projects at the property propose elements within District-owned right-of-way, the Applicant is required to pursue a public space construction permit.

DDOT expects the adjacent public realm to meet all District standards. The Applicant should refer to Titles 11, 12A, and 24 of the [DCMR](#), the most recent version of DDOT's [Design and Engineering Manual \(DEM\)](#), and the [Public Realm Design Manual](#) for public space regulations and design guidance. A permit application can be filed through the DDOT [Transportation Online Permitting System \(TOPS\)](#) website.

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