

May 18, 2021

Chairperson Anthony Hood
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Support Letter for 7th & P Streets, NW PUD Application – Zoning Case No. 20-27

Dear Chairperson Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

My name is James Holm and I am writing to support the PUD application for the proposed development at the northeast corner of 7th & P Streets, NW, Zoning Case No. 20-27.

I have lived at 1525 Marion St NW since 2015 and I am extremely pleased that the vacant lots at 7th and P Streets are planned for development. The property has been vacant since well before I moved into the neighborhood, yet there is a chronic problem with illegal activity occurring on and around the property. I regularly witness police and ambulances responding to crimes and other problems on these lots, and I avoid walking near the property at night because of concerns for my own personal safety. A residential building at this location will do much to alleviate the public safety issues that these vacant lots create.

The vacant property is also a magnet for trash and abandoned property, which degrades the livability of the Shaw neighborhood. On a regular basis my neighbors and I clean up discarded trash, liquor bottles, and beer cans on the lots, and there is a regular problem with other illegally dumped garbage and refuse. This unfortunate situation has contributed to a large rodent problem that comes from the vacant lots. Replacing this vacant land with a well-planned residential building will result in significant improvements to community sanitation.

I appreciate the time the development team took to engage the community about the plans for the site. I think that the design of the building, which includes internal balconies and a brick façade along Marion Street, will complement the historic properties on the east side of Marion Street. I also appreciate that the developer has included setbacks on the east façade, which makes the building's mass more consistent with the scale of the townhouses and other buildings on Marion Street. Furthermore, I support how the developer has included ground-floor retail on the P and 7th Street sides of the building, which will ensure the Ordinary People barbershop remains in business while providing opportunity for new merchants to add economic vitality to the neighborhood.

The project and the associated PUD application demonstrate how the developer has led a collaborative process with the neighborhood and improved its plans by responding to suggestions from community members. I support this project and urge the Commission to approve it.

Sincerely,

James S. Holm
1525 Marion St NW

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20-27
EXHIBIT NO.39