

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: James Clarke <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 6:55 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: My support as Ward 4 Resident for Dance Loft/Heleos — ZC Case No. 21-18

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All Members of the Zoning Commission Members of the Zoning Commission,

To Whom it May Concern,

I am and have been a Ward 4 resident for over 30 years. My maternal grandparents met and married here over 80 years ago, in 1942. Their daughter, my mother, has been a Ward 4 resident since birth. Though she has lost her mobility in recent years, she loved dancing and would frequent the Dance Institute of Washington DC, at 3400 14th St. NW near the Fire-station. My mother does not and did not drive, thus we often concerned with her safety coming to and from the Dance Institute at 3400 14th St. NW, which is over a mile away from the location of the Dance Loft, and was much further from our house on Decatur St. in the 90s, and still a far distance from our house on Arkansas Ave. today, the house she grew up in.

The Dance Loft on 14's Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map Amendment located at 4618 14th Street, NW (Z.C. Case No. 21-18) brings dance and arts this neighborhood which would have made a difference in my mother's mobility and our peace of mind regarding her safety and still has the potential to do that for more residents of this corridor. The District needs to preserve arts institutions and add affordable housing, and this project does both and should be approved. Gentrification and a lack of affordable housing have pushed countless neighbors of mine to the suburbs, and I am particularly enthused by this project's plans to set aside at least 2/3rds of the 101 proposed units for affordable, mixed-income housing, as well as a significant number of 3-bedroom units, which are rare and badly needed for families wishing to stay in the District.

This project will also support neighborhood businesses, including my own, by bringing appropriate residential density to this commercial corridor. This area will soon also be home to new retail at the redeveloped Northern Bus Garage across the street, and additional density will be crucial to the success of both current business and the expected new businesses. I also appreciate that this project adds additional parking and will make the building ADA accessible for person's with disabilities, such as my mom. Movement is also the key to long term mobility, and the Dance Loft will provide a safe center for people of all ages to move and thrive.

Lastly, as a former construction project engineer and project manager in the environmental sector I'm impressed by the development team's commitment to constructing a LEED Gold certified building that targets net-zero energy performance. This is exceptional and will help make progress on the District's climate resiliency goals. This will be the first net-zero arts center in the District and one of an esteemed few nationally.

I strongly support this project's multiple benefits of more housing that is deeply affordable, a new home for an established neighborhood arts organization, and support for local businesses in our neighborhood. I encourage the Zoning Commission to approve this request and support this project's potential to contribute to a healthy, inclusive, and thriving community.

Thank you for your work and service, as well as your consideration of this matter.

-James Clarke

Life-long Ward 4 Resident

Forward Entertainment & Technology/The Leverage Firm

(202) 770-7720

TO:

Commissioner Hood

Commissioner Miller

Commissioner Shapiro

Commissioner Imamura

Commissioner May

CC:

ANC Commissioner Ulysses Campbell, 4C03

ANC Commissioner Paul Johnson, 4C07

ANC Commissioner Maria Barry, 4C02

ANC Commissioner Vanessa Rubio, 4C01
ANC Commissioner Yvette Marbury-Long, 4C04
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ANC Commissioner Clara Botstein, 4C08
ANC Commissioner Alan Wehler, 4C09
ANC Commissioner Jonah Goodman, 4C10
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4
Will Perkins, Ward 4 DC Council office

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