

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: zferguson.advocacy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Zachary Ferguson
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Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022 7:39 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Support for Dance Loft PUD, ZC No. 21-18

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Dear Chairman Anthony Hood,

Hello! I am a DC resident (and an attorney who works in affordable housing) and I wish to express my strong support for the Dance Loft on 14th Planned Unit Development, Zoning Case No. 20-18.

I don't know if you have looked for housing to rent or a home to purchase in DC in the last several years, but it is truly shocking. And it is exclusionary. We are losing residents who can no longer afford to live in DC, often because housing supply is simply far too low to meet demand. People and families must find more affordable housing far away in Maryland or Virginia and face a crushing commute to keep their job in DC.

Cutting a few units here and there from each proposed development might not seem like a big deal in isolation, but add it up over thousands of projects and it's devastating. This project should be approved swiftly and we should encourage more just like it.

I support this proposal because it is exactly the kind well-designed, transit-accessible, mixed-use, mixed-income housing that will help the District reach its housing equity goals. The project also prevents the displacement of a community performing arts institution, enabling it to expand and thrive. All this is achieved in a mixed-use building design that appropriately fits into the neighborhood.

The 101 apartments with a mix of deeply affordable homes, family-sized units, and a permanent home for Dance Loft's community arts and cultural center are an extraordinary contribution to the community and the District. The 66 affordable homes will not only help meet the Comprehensive Plan's housing equity goals, they also help to advance its racial equity goals by providing deeply affordable rental homes, and an impressive 16 large, family-sized rental apartments for larger, low income families. These new housing opportunities make the expensive 16th Street Heights neighborhood more inclusive, and help foster a diverse community both economically and racially.

While this proposal has opponents, I believe that this carefully designed building will be an important contribution to the neighborhood and the city. I ask you to approve this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Zachary Ferguson
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