

My name is Matthew Holden and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the the proposed map amendment at 1617 U Street NW. I live at 1704 Seaton St NW, which is approximately 200 feet from the property.

In my opinion, the current site is underbuilt and does not positively contribute to the neighborhood's built environment. The 1-story parking garage at the corner of 17th and U St NW especially breaks up the urban fabric and negatively impacts the pedestrian experience including along U Street, one of our most important commercial corridors. I believe the MU-10 zoning designation will give the District the most flexibility for the site and a greater chance for a well-designed redevelopment that balances needs of the site between public facilities and new residential units.

A smart redevelopment at this site, enabled by increasing the allowable density, gives the District the chance to improve the streetscape along this block and make it safer and more pleasant for people traveling along U, 17th, and other neighborhood streets. Increased density could even allow for the possibility of additional public facilities beyond a rebuilt police and fire station, including a library or other community space.

I also believe that adding more market rate and affordable housing will help with the housing crisis and allow more people to call our great neighborhood home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew Holden

Submitted on 6/17/2023 by:

Matthew Holden

1704 Seaton St NW