

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

25 August 2012

Ms. Catherine Buell
Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
D.C. Historic Preservation Office
1100 4th Street S.W. Suite E650
Washington, D.C. 20024

Re: McMillan Sand Filtration Development Site

Dear Ms. Buell and Members of the Board:

The McMillan Sand Filtration Site has the potential to be a unique world-class setting and Howard University is writing to encourage the Historic Preservation Review Board to rigorously require that the adaptive reuse be planned in a manner that is more creative in its interpretation of the Site's unique history and provides a much greater opportunity for the public to enjoy its special above and below grade features.

The current plan before you falls short of fulfilling these objectives.

Were this not a historic site that has a special place in public health, water treatment engineering and public landscape history, then the need for its redevelopment to pay for the new uses in a stand-alone manner might be understandable. However, the Site's importance in each of these areas demands a world-class redevelopment solution worthy of its original vision, purpose and function.

This site is the largest slow sand filtration plant in the country built with the dual intentions of reducing the spread of infectious typhoid fever and supplementing the park system of the Nation's Capital. As such, there is an opportunity to create at this location, an educational, recreational and cultural heritage setting that will inspire generations of Washingtonians and visitors from around the world for years to come.

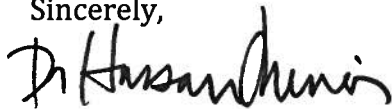
Howard University was a participant in the charettes conducted at Trinity University in the summer of 2001 by the D.C. Office of Planning. The University proffered its own planning solution at the time and supported the community



revitalization goals that emerged from that exercise. These included: the provision of open space; the preservation and adaptive reuse of the site features; a highly creative approach to the redevelopment of the site; the mitigation of adverse neighborhood impacts from the new uses; the development of neighborhood amenities that would appeal and be accessible to the diverse population of residents and others who might visit the site; and the ability of the site to accommodate a mix of uses that could be revenue-producing on both the private and non-profit components of the site.

Howard University believes that the McMillan Sand Filtration Development Site is deserving of the kind of internationally award-winning redevelopment that its history and unique features suggest is possible. The plan currently before you has yet to reflect this potential, and the University would urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to accept and approve nothing less than a plan that would result in a development that could do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Hassan Minor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Hassan Minor, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President

Strategic Planning and External Affairs