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October 6, 2008

Councilmember Kwame R. Brown
Chair, Committee on Economic Development
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 119
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilmember Brown,

The Dupont Park Civic Association supports Bill 17-0915, the “Downtown Anacostia and Pennsylvania Avenue Eminent Domain Authorization Act of 2008” submitted to the Committee on Economic Development on July 15, 2008 by Councilmember Marion Barry and Co-Sponsored by Council members Yvette Alexander and Jim Graham, Councilmember At-Large Kwame R. Brown, and Council Chair Vincent C. Gray.

The Dupont Park Civic Association (DPCA) is located in Ward 7 and Pennsylvania and Minnesota Avenue, SE are within our boundaries. For many years, unsuccessfully, residents of DPCA and Ward 7 have sought redevelopment projects in this area to include the projects and activities listed on the attachment to this letter. We are excited about the prospect of change.

I would like to note that Pennsylvania Avenue is:

- called "America's Main Street"**
- an important commuter route**
- part of the National Highway System**
- one of the earliest streets constructed in the federal city**

Yet, when you cross the Sousa Bridge “America’s Main Street” changes to an area afflicted with buildings and improvements that are obsolete, dilapidated, and deteriorated; it becomes a “blight” to the residents, to the community and to the city. The side of Pennsylvania Avenue across the Sousa Bridge deserves modernization via economic development projects similar to those occurring all around the city.

DPCA views Bill 17-0915 as the catalyst to the transformation of not only the 2300 Block of Pennsylvania, but the remaining blocks on both sides of the street to Southern Avenue, specifically Blocks 2300 -2600 and 3200-3300. It is time for this

great city to direct focus, attention, resources, planning, action, etc. to reinvigorate the stalled development projects identified on the attachment. We strongly believe that redeveloping the Pennsylvania Avenue-Minnesota Avenue, S.E. Intersection Area will improve the safety and quality of life in this area and attract the type of businesses desired by the residents.

DPCA is interested in meeting with you, Council Chair Vincent C. Gray, Councilmember Yvette Alexander, and other appropriate District Officials to discuss the city's plans regarding the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Corridor Land Development Project. We will contact your office to arrange a time. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 202-583-4205 or at the address above.

Sincerely,



Barbara D. Morgan

President

Dupont Park Civic Association

**Attachment – List of Stalled Projects and Activities Regarding the Redevelopment of
Pennsylvania Avenue**

cc:

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty

Council of the District of Columbia, Chairman Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Ward 8, Marion Barry

Councilmember Ward 7, Yvette Alexander

Councilmember Ward 1, Jim Graham

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Neil O. Albert,
Deputy Mayor

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development,
Derrick Lanardo Woody, Coordinator-Great Street Initiative

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development,
Ayris T. Scales, Project Manager

Office of Planning, Harriet Tregoning, Director

Office of Planning, Evelyn Kasongo, Ward 7 Planner

Department of Transportation, Frank Seales, Jr., Interim Director

ANC7B04 Commissioner, Phillip Hammond

ATTACHMENT

List of Stalled Projects and Activities Regarding the Redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue

Note:

Submitted by the Dupont Park Civic Association as a supporting document to the October 6, 2008 letter to Council Member At-Large Kwame Brown regarding support of Legislation Bill 17-0915, the "Downtown Anacostia and Pennsylvania Avenue Eminent Domain Authorization Act of 2008"

1. **Pennsylvania Avenue East of the River Taskforce, Report on Community Workshop, 12/8/2001**
2. **East of Sousa Bridge Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Taskforce, Letter to Mayor Williams, Streetscape and Infrastructure Improvements to Penn. Ave., SE , 3/4/2002**
3. **Bolan Smart Associates, Inc. Letter to Mary Finch, DC AIA, Pennsylvania Ave East - Retail Potential, 10/10/2002**
4. **L'Enfant Square Market and Urban Design Analysis, Report Contributors: DC AIA, Washington Architectural Foundation, Bolan Smart Associates, Inc., Quinn Evans Architects, Marshall Heights CDO, DC Dept of Transportation, Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, DC Office of Planning, 10/2002**
5. **National Capital Revitalization Corp (NCRC), L'Enfant Square Pennsylvania and Minnesota Avenue,1/2003**
6. **District Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Avenue SE Transportation Study Final Report, November 2003**
7. **District Department of Transportation, Briefing on Pennsylvania Avenue Implementation Plan, by Dan Tangherlini, 5/24/2004**
8. **East of Sousa Bridge Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Taskforce, Letter to Tony Freeman, The Redevelopment of the 2300 block of Pennsylvania Ave SE, East of the Sousa Bridge, 8/21/2004**
9. **East of Sousa Bridge Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Taskforce, Letter to Mayor Williams and City Administrator Robert Bobb, The Redevelopment of Pennsylvania Ave SE, East of the Sousa Bridge, 8/21/2004**
10. **East of Sousa Bridge Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Taskforce, Resolution on the Middle Anacostia River Crossing Transportation Study, January 13, 2005**
11. **District Department of Transportation, Great Streets Framework Plan, March 2005**
12. **District Department of Transportation, Middle Anacostia River Crossings Transportation Study, June 2005**
13. **Office of Planning, Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan, Study Area Conditions, January 2008**