

Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

July 9, 2017

Robert R. Harris
Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered
7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814

Re: Development Proposals to Redevelop Open Space at 5550 Friendship Blvd.

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, Inc. (CCCFH) is a nonprofit organization and a coalition of local community organizations representing neighborhoods located along Wisconsin Avenue, River Road, and Massachusetts Avenue, near its border with the District of Columbia. CCCFH is comprised of 19 neighborhood associations and towns. It was formed in 1971 in anticipation of Montgomery County's revision of the Friendship Heights Sector Plan. CCCFH participated in the most recent Friendship Heights Sector Plan which was adopted in 1998. CCCFH helped secure the inclusion of the Wisconsin Place Community Center and a local park as public amenities in exchange for redevelopment of certain parcels of land in the area.

At our CCCFH monthly meeting on June 21, the Village of Friendship Heights, a member of CCCFH, advised us of a developer's proposals to build a very large building on current green space exceeding the limits of the 1998 Friendship Heights Sector Plan. This would require re-opening the Sector Plan to allow greater height and/or density. The Village Council, in response to concerns from many of the community's residents, recently passed a resolution affirming its support for and commitment to the goals, objectives, recommendations, planning principles and guidelines of the Sector Plan relating to Parcel 4. CCCFH voted unanimously to support the Village of Friendship Heights position regarding the proposed redevelopment. Specifically:

1. CCCFH opposes any amendment to the Friendship Heights Sector Plan to allow greater height or density; and
2. CCCFH supports its member organization, the Village of Friendship Heights, in its opposition to the development proposals for 5550 Friendship Blvd. that were presented to the Village Council at its June 12, 2017, meeting.

CCCFH hereby affirms its support for and commitment to the goals, objectives, recommendations, planning principles and guidelines of the 1998 Sector Plan aimed at assuring compatible development and redevelopment that include the continuing presence of public green open space on Parcel 4 and the preservation of views.

Representing the Citizens Associations of Brookdale, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Drummond, Friendship Heights, Glen Echo Heights, Green Acres-Glen Cove, Kenwood, Kenwood Condominium, Kenwood House Cooperative, Kenwood Place Condominium, Somerset, Springfield, Sumner, Sumner Village Condominium, Westmoreland, Westbard mews, Westwood Mews, and Wood Acres

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As you are aware, a similar resolution regarding 5550 Friendship Blvd. was also sent to you by the Somerset House II Condominium Association, Inc. in June.

We ask that your client undertake its planning in accordance with the provisions of the current sector plan and the resolutions cited above.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.



Harold Pfohl, Chair
Citizens Coordinating Committee
of Friendship Heights

Council President Berliner
Council Vice President Riemer
PHED Chair Floreen
Councilmember Elrich
Councilmember Leventhal

Casey Anderson
Gwen Wright
Robert Kronenberg
Melanie Rose White, Mayor, Village of Friendship Heights
Julie Davis, Esq. Somerset House II
Julian Mansfield, Mgr., Village of Friendship Heights

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