



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007

(202) 724-7098 • anc2e@dc.gov

November 1, 2017

Ms. Marnique Heath
Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
historic.preservation@dc.gov

**RE: Permit Application for the Demolition of the West Heating Plant at 1051-1055
29th Street NW (HPRB #17-633)**

Dear Chair Heath,

On October 30, 2017 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-1-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E respects that it is the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation's decision to determine if demolition of this property is appropriate. That said, ANC 2E strongly believes that the development of this property into a residential property alongside the creation of a new public park is the only acceptable solution for the West Heating Plant, considering the urban planning, congestion, and parking issues which face ANC 2E05 specifically, and the Georgetown community more generally. We maintain that it is in the public's interest to bring this process to a conclusion – continuation of the status quo is not in the best interest of the Georgetown community.

Like the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, ANC 2E supports the idea of imagining a preservation scheme for the West Heating Plant which moves beyond preserving the building as is, but indeed respects the building's history, culture, and architectural values. The ANC believes that the design presented today by acclaimed architect David Adjaye and his team incorporates exciting technical innovation and excellent design, carefully marrying the past with the future of our community, conveying historic significance while not being shackled by it and frozen in time. We also note the Commission of Fine Arts' September 2017 unanimous approval for this project, particularly their request for

COMMISSIONERS:

Ed Solomon, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Mara Goldman, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Jim Wilcox, District 6
Monica Roaché, District 7 Zac Schroepfer, District 8

bolder and less literal design — which is what we have here. As such, we believe that this design merits consideration under the category of exemplary architecture.

Furthermore, the community is absolutely delighted by the creation of a unique public park which links Rock Creek Park and the Georgetown waterfront and that no public funds will be required to fund or maintain the park. This is a tremendous benefit which the larger community has long desired. As such, we believe that this project provides unique community benefits to not only Georgetown residents but to all who visit Georgetown as well.

The ANC highlights the community's overwhelmingly strong support for the construction of this project as presented here today, and specifically our support based on qualifications related to exemplary architecture and community benefits. We also note our appreciation for the design team's plans to sensitively preserve the western façade, the perimeter foundation walls, and the site walls, despite the extensive challenges with the existing structure.

ANC 2E believes that it is time to move this portion of 29th Street NW from neglected to spectacular, and this project from a concept to a reality. We strongly support the transformation of the West Heating Plant from a dark and foreboding blight into a beautiful, innovative development with significant public benefits. We also look forward to the transformation of one of the key gateways into our community from decrepit and toxic to one that respects and reflects our history while simultaneously moving our community forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe R. Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Gibbons
Chair, ANC 2E