

Commissioners,

First, let me thank you for the time and effort you spend helping to improve the projects that come before you. As a former Madison Alder and current neighborhood activist, I am aware that your task is often a thankless one, so please know you have my appreciation for your efforts.

You have recently received a number of communications from various members of Capitol Neighborhoods, the neighborhood association that represents most of the downtown core and which the 414 E. Washington project sits (Agenda Item 3) . A neighborhood steering committee was formed months ago and has met several times, both in person and over Zoom, despite the COVID-19 realities of the day.

One report you have received, submitted by Joe Martino yesterday, appears to be an official report of the steering committee. However, that report was not submitted to the neighborhood steering committee members for review, comment, or amendment. I asked Mr. Martino to withdraw his submission to you in favor of seeking steering committee input and comment, but he declined to do so. While Mr. Martino was the administrative "Chair" of the steering committee, he was not empowered to submit a report to UDC unilaterally and news of his submission has been met by several steering committee members with disappointment, anger, and frustration. Some very strongly believe his report did not adequately capture some collective opinions on the project.

In response, I have asked Planning Department staff to not consider that document the official report of the steering committee's efforts and I respectfully request that you do the same. While Mr. Martino's document certainly does contain a number of opinions expressed during our various meetings, it does not appear to be fully representative of the scope of neighborhood opinion on this project. I certainly do not wish to dampen or lessen Mr. Martino's expression's toward the project, but ask that you treat his submission as his personal opinion on the project and not a representation of the collective voice of the other neighborhood participants or the James Madison Park district itself.

I understand that a separate group of steering committee participants have submitted another "report" to you as well but they understood, after a conversation with me, that their document solely represents their views in their individual capacity. **At this time, there is no official report to the UDC from the steering committee, James Madison Park district, or Capitol Neighborhoods.**

I am planning on attending tonight's UDC meeting, neither supporting nor opposing the project, to answer any questions about the neighborhood process the commissioners may have.

Again, thank you for your time.

Eli Judge  
President, Capitol Neighborhoods