Statement of Justification

Proposed 8 Town house lots, "Hyatt View" 5809-5811 44th St. Hyattsville, MD February 20, 2018

Presented to:

M-NCPPC Development Review Division 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Prepared by:

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Background:

The subject property located at 5809 and 5811 44th St. in Hyattsville, MD is within the newly revitalized downtown area of Hyattsville. Property at current state is comprised of a single-family house that was built in 1921 and has been used as residence. Property has no significant or historical value that would encourage restoration.

Property is surrounded by commercial offices on Baltimore Ave., residential buildings across the street and Dematha High School a block away.

Significant revitalization of the downtown Hyattsville has been concentrated along Baltimore Ave. for commercial businesses. Town house and condominiums make up the residential part in streets on either side of Baltimore Ave.

Commercial businesses take the most advantage by having frontage at Baltimore Ave. for visibility and customer access. There are very few businesses on side streets.

Current Conditions:

The 2004 approved sector plan for Gateway Art District maintained the property in the Commercial Office (C-O) Zone and superimposed a Development District Overlay (DDO), placing it in the Town Center Character Area. According to the DDO, the underlying zone allows for Town Houses.

There are several commercial offices adjacent to this property on Baltimore Ave. which have been vacant for some time, indicating that demand for commercial offices are very low. Examples are the offices next to car rental agency and doctor office behind the property on Baltimore Ave.

One block down there is a recent development comprising of several hundred townhouses, condominiums and rental apartments on both side of Baltimore Ave. The existing housing units in the area are in high demand and resales are strong every year. Demand for housing is on the rise with more people moving out of Washington DC to surrounding communities in Maryland looking for more affordable housing. Real Estate market has been particularly strong in Hyattsville and surrounding area. A new complex of housing units and super market was just opened up last year a mile up the road in Riverdale.

Best Use of the Land:

To evaluate the current state of real estate needs in the city, a meeting was arranged with the city planner, director and council member serving the area. Proposed subdivision was presented during the meeting and inputs welcomed. All city officials in attendance were in agreement with the need for more housing in that location instead of commercial offices based on current trends and uses of existing parcels.

Development decision was based on current market demands for commercial offices or residential units. Commercial offices and businesses in downtown Hyattsville are getting more established and heavily rely on local residences to support them. Additional customers will help them even more. Given the current real estate market with high demands for housing, it is desirable to offer more housing units that are affordable and meet the needs of the community and current buyers. Townhouses are very appropriate dwelling unit for this location as they will be consistent with character of the surrounding areas and promote the urban living style.

Proposed town houses will be 16'x40', which is 3' longer than existing houses nearby. They will have 4 levels with garage at the basement level and three more stories on top. Street access will be at first level to Oglethorpe St. They will have a more classic look with Mansard roof design, high-end finishes and materials for the front elevations like brick, stone and or stucco. Inside there will be four levels of finished spaces that provide maximum utilization of the land and amenities that are needed and desired by the current buyers.

The proposed development provides two parking spots (1.5 per unit is required) that will satisfy the parking needs of the residents.

Development proposes an alley in the back with one car garage in the lower level of the house and another parking spot on driveway outside the house.

The proposed town houses will provide walking distance access to shops and restaurants nearby and will reduce the need for automobiles to access such facilities. Thus, reducing traffic and improving quality of life.

Approach in Meeting the Requirements:

The proposed subdivision is designed in accordance with the requirements of Development District Standards (DDS) for the applicable requirements under Town Center (TC) character area marked with an "X". A compliance table has been generated to enumerate the requirements and demonstrates compliance in site plan.

The Permit and Site Plan review process on page 139 of the "Gateway Art District" does not necessitate generation of Detailed Site Plan when the requirements of District Development Standards are met. The proposed development is in full compliance with the stated requirements and seeks to take the path of permit process accordingly.

According to the Gateway Art Distract sector plan Development District Standards (DDS) for the Town Center (TC) character area lists the applicable requirements to the location for this subdivision starting at page 146. Several of the listed requirements under TC are not applicable to this project. The applicable requirements for TC character area were met point by point which made up the character and shape of this project and influenced parameters for site and architectural plan developments.

The configuration and design of subdivision was shaped in most part by the following requirements in the DDS.

1. Build to line for residential uses of +/- 15'. We propose about 8' of front yard.

- 2. All buildings shall be built out to minimum of 80% of site frontage. We propose 8- 16' wide townhouse units to meet the minimum frontage.
- 3. Designing front and end wall elevations that are made of substantial materials and don't look plain. See architectural design schematics.
- 4. Provide access and parking in rear alley. An alley was designed for rear loading and access.
- 5. 1.5 parking spaces required but designed for two parking spaces per unit.
- 6. 6' tall privacy fence in rear.
- 7. Planting shade trees at rate of one per 5000 sq. ft. (Landscape manual is not applicable in the DDS)
- 8. Building will be less than 45' high.

Summary:

The current and projected future needs for real estate in downtown Hyattsville area, indicates more demand for higher density residential units like townhouse compared to low demand commercial offices.

Officials in City of Hyattsville and council members have reviewed this project and they have demonstrated support for it as well. They appreciate the idea of more people in the community supporting the existing businesses and increasing the revenue source to do bigger and better things for the city.

Adding more housing units means increasing foot traffic for the businesses on Baltimore Ave. which are in need of more customers to generate revenue and to thrive.

This project will complement the new character of the down town Hyattsville and will transform the bland, old and uninteresting looking house at corner of Oglethorpe and 44th St. to a new and vibrant town house community that will be source of additional life and energy to City of Hyattsville.

