July 25, 2018

Mayor Kate Stewart
City Council of Takoma Park Takoma
Park, MD 20912

Via email

Dear Mayor Stewart and City Council,

I am writing to thank you and your amazing City staff for all your efforts over the last several months to refine and improve the Takoma Junction site plan. The changes you have championed, as embodied in the Resolution you will be voting on tonight – height reduction, higher levels of sustainability, discouraging "formula" type establishments, and more – are completely in line with our vision for the Junction, and we enthusiastically endorse them.   We are particularly inspired by your decision to dedicate revenues from the project to your Affordable Housing Fund. As you know, we are one of the area's leading developers of affordable housing, so we especially applaud this decision.

The mediation process has just begun, and it has already been productive. The Co-op's chosen mediator has done a good job in getting all parties to enter into an honest exchange of their viewpoints – the first step in building understanding and trust. Reaching an agreement won't be easy – as many observers have noted, it's a very small site, and fitting everyone's needs, wants and hopes onto it is no easy task. And even when reach a general meeting of the minds there will be the considerable task of formulating these general principals into detailed agreements. It may take weeks, it may take months, but we believe we will get there and we are committed to the process.

We have all worked hard to reach this point, but there's much more work ahead of us as we enter into the Montgomery County approval process. It is only through this process that we can get specific sign-offs from the various State and local agencies to allow the project to come into final focus and fully address any lingering details and concerns. We look forward to working with you through this process as we move towards our common vision – creating a thriving, funky and beautiful Takoma Junction.

Sincerely

Adrian G Washington
CEO and Founder