

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ST. ELIZABETH'S EAST

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PHASE I REDEVELOPMENT PUBLIC MEETING
PROPERTY SURPLUS RESOLUTION

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

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The meeting was convened in the
R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, 2700 Martin Luther
King Jr Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., at 10:00
a.m., Catherine Buell, Executive Director,
presiding.

PRESENT

CATHERINE BUELL, Executive Director

KEIKO YOSHINO, Legislative Director

SAROSH OLPADWALA, Director of Real Estate

ANDRE SWANN, Project Manager

JAMES PARKS, Project Manager

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (10:21 a.m.)

3 MS. BUELL: Good morning, everybody.
4 We're going to go ahead and get started. Come on
5 in, have a seat. Don't be shy. Please make sure
6 you get yourselves some food.

7 And as folks sit down and have a seat,
8 we're going to have Dionne and Cheers come in and
9 just give a commercial so that everybody knows
10 about the great things happening here in Ward 8.

11 MS. REEDER: Thank you, Catherine.
12 Good morning everyone.

13 Normally, I'm sitting on that side of
14 the podium, I'm actually sitting with you guys
15 because my -- what brought me to this community
16 doing this work is I actually work for the Far
17 Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative and
18 I'm always involved in what's going on in this
19 community. Well, actually, not quite, right, Ms.
20 Cuthbert? Mayor Williams actually brought to
21 Ward 8, so that dates us some years.

22 But we really -- well, I actually

1 joined a couple of individuals to start a new
2 venture here in Ward 8. I am a third generation
3 Washingtonian and I'm used to being able to sit
4 down in my community and have great food and
5 enjoy great conversations and be among great
6 people.

7 So, we thought that the best place to
8 do that again would be on Martin Luther King
9 Avenue among the new things that's happening in
10 this community.

11 So, my new venture is I'm one of the
12 managing partners with Cheers at the Big Chair
13 where everyone knows your name.

14 We are actually located directly
15 across the street, diagonal, honestly, from the
16 actual Big Chair. We are a restaurant that's
17 open seven days a week, it's a small café, but
18 we're open seven days a week.

19 We offer lunch and dinner. We have a
20 wonderful brunch that's on Saturday. And we were
21 fortunate enough to cater this event.

22 So, with me, I have the two ladies

1 that make all of this happen, because I told you
2 guys about the full-time. So, I have my General
3 Manager who is Nicole Spriggs, so she's the one
4 who actually got this gig for us.

5 And then, we have Tiffany Taylor,
6 who's also a native Ward 8 resident who actually
7 is the Assistant Manager.

8 So, with the help of these wonderful
9 ladies, myself and my partner, we're able to
10 provide this community, not like we didn't have
11 it before because we're right across the street
12 from a wonderful restaurant that's been the
13 anchor for great soul food in this community for
14 many years. So, we're proud to be among now the
15 one, two, three, four restaurants.

16 MR. FREEMAN: Who did the crab french
17 fries?

18 MS. REEDER: We are actually the home
19 of the crab fries. You guys see it on all of our
20 shirts. So, if you've never had crab fries,
21 you've got to stop past. The address is 2122
22 MLK. We appreciate this opportunity, Catherine,

1 and Morgan, thank you guys for selecting us.

2 And any time, we'll be around for a
3 while, so if you want to reach out to us, you're
4 more than welcome to do so. But, thank you so
5 very much.

6 MS. BUELL: Thank you very much.

7 And now, we just want to acknowledge
8 Kymone as he has a plate full of food.

9 But, React Radio also does AV/IT
10 support. So, as much as we can use our local
11 partners, we do, but it's also wonderful to
12 understand what resources they bring to the table
13 so that if they need growth, they can grow with
14 us.

15 So, with that being said, I would like
16 to introduce our Director of Development and it
17 is a real treat that we have him here because he
18 is on triple duty today. The head of DMPED,
19 Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic
20 Development, is a very busy office and he has
21 been very, very busy this week.

22 So, with that, I'll introduce Sarosh

1 Olpadwala.

2 MR. OLPADWALA: Thank you.

3 I just wanted to introduce Catherine
4 and I appreciate that, Catherine, but after
5 Catherine's fantastic job, we are very pleased.

6 We just want to say thank you to the
7 St. Elizabeth's team, Catherine Buell, as you
8 know, James Parks, Andre Swann, I mean these guys
9 have -- you know them, we know them. I mean they
10 have been -- they have persevered and now we are
11 so excited to introduce this plan.

12 And so, I really won't take up any
13 more of your time. I mean, it's really -- it's
14 Catherine's show. And, thank you, Catherine, for
15 all you've done.

16 MS. BUELL: Thank you. Thank you so
17 much.

18 All right, so maybe we just figure out
19 how to -- while we get our screen back up and
20 running --

21 So, today, we're here to talk about --
22 all right, so, today, we're here to talk about

1 St. Elizabeth East, our Phase I. And this is the
2 first step of many and we are very pleased to
3 have so many people here.

4 We also know that there are a number
5 of community meetings going on today, so we
6 appreciate everybody for coming out. We're also
7 competing with the Ward 8 Democrats, so we are
8 going to be mindful of our time.

9 But, we also want to hear all of the
10 comments that we can.

11 We are kicking off our Phase I
12 redevelopment effort and maybe we can switch over
13 to the PowerPoint.

14 And what we plan to do today is
15 outline exactly what that means and what the
16 process is. We have so much exciting news for
17 St. E's.

18 For those who haven't heard, we have
19 the Wizard's practice facility and the Mystics
20 coming to St. Elizabeth East which is a huge,
21 huge win for this community and for this
22 redevelopment effort.

1 We also have a private developer. And
2 so, if we can have the Redbrick team stand up.
3 Redbrick and Gragg Cardona is our redevelopment
4 partner and they are working on the Phase I
5 development. And so, we are going to talk about
6 the four parcels that we are looking to develop.

7 Today's presentation focuses on the
8 surplus. And so, this is the first step and we
9 will talk about all of the community meetings
10 that we have.

11 As we explained to all of our
12 community partners, we don't fully bake anything
13 without coming to the community. And so, this
14 the first of many, many meetings. We hope and
15 anticipate a very active discussion about what
16 the community would like to see here on this
17 campus. And we appreciate all the comments.

18 So, we are going to be recording your
19 comments with a transcriber. We also are
20 recording this session to make sure that, for
21 those who can't come, that you can see everything
22 that goes on with St. Elizabeth East, whether

1 you're physically here or not.

2 And we will also repeat this
3 presentation and repeat the outreach time and
4 time again as we move forward with the
5 redevelopment effort.

6 So, to introduce the St. Elizabeth's
7 East redevelopment, we'll move to the next slide.

8 So, as everybody knows, St.
9 Elizabeth's East was developed in the 1850s and
10 pioneered by a woman named Dorothea Dix who was
11 looking to create a campus, a peaceful and serene
12 place for the humane treatment of individuals
13 with mental illness.

14 St. Elizabeth's East was designed as
15 an innovative campus for its time. And so, for
16 those who love the historic buildings, you can
17 see a lot of that articulated in the architecture
18 through screened-in porches that allow
19 individuals who are being treated here to go
20 outside without necessarily having to go outside.
21 All of the green space and the design of the
22 campus, the fact that we have a farm, the fact

1 that we have a coal plant here on the West campus
2 and a number of cemeteries.

3 This really was intended to be a self-
4 sustaining community.

5 In 1979 -- you can go to the previous
6 slide -- 1979, this campus was added to the
7 National Register of Historic Places. And in
8 1987, the District also acquired the East campus
9 from the federal government.

10 In 2005, this was declared a local
11 historic district, so St. Elizabeth's is actually
12 a national historic landmark district, which
13 means that there are a number of preservation
14 bodies who have oversight over the redevelopment
15 here.

16 In 2004, GSA assumed control of the
17 West campus and in 2007, DHS announced that it
18 was going to consolidate its headquarters on the
19 West campus.

20 That triggered the District of
21 Columbia to move forward with its redevelopment
22 effort and many community members, including

1 myself before I took this role, we participated
2 in a number of outreach meetings focused on our
3 master plan.

4 And that master plan thoughtfully
5 outlined what the District wants to see, what the
6 residents want to see, what a number of
7 stakeholders want to see here in this campus.

8 That master plan was released in 2012
9 and then the master plan goals are reflected in
10 our Zoning Code which was approved by the Zoning
11 Commission in 2013.

12 And then we opened Gateway in the
13 R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center. And that really -
14 - these two buildings really do reflect a lot of
15 the comments and the input made as part of that
16 master planning process.

17 So, the master plan anticipates that
18 for the entire campus which is 183 acres, we will
19 have five million square feet of mixed use
20 development.

21 The master plan does not ask that we
22 be prescriptive in what we are requiring in terms

1 of redevelopment but it asks that we be as
2 flexible as possible so that this campus can be
3 creatively reused.

4 And it also identifies the idea that,
5 in addition to the office space and in addition
6 to a number of residential units, retail and
7 hospitality, civic and educational uses, that the
8 campus, ten percent of the footprint will be
9 reused for an innovation hub. And it is a small
10 fraction of the overall footprint, but it is
11 intended to be very significant and very
12 impactful.

13 And that innovation hub and that
14 commercial center is really what's going to make
15 this campus a dynamic place to live, but also set
16 it apart from a number of the redevelopment
17 efforts around the city.

18 We really want St. Elizabeth's
19 Congress Heights Ward 8 to be a unique place. We
20 don't want to duplicate what has already been
21 done in the city. But, we also want to bring
22 back the commercial center and bring that back to

1 life.

2 So, the master plan outlines a number
3 of different goals, the first of which is the
4 innovation hub and the mixed use redevelopment.

5 Second, of course, is the mixed use
6 redevelopment and clustering those uses
7 throughout the campus, not necessarily saying
8 this is the residential section of the campus,
9 this is the office section of the campus, but
10 really integrating those uses throughout the
11 campus.

12 Third is creating a unique place and
13 sustainable development.

14 Fourth, of course, is creating
15 opportunities for D.C. based CDEs and Ward 8
16 partners. And we do look for all of our projects
17 to make sure that Ward 8 partners and D.C. based
18 CDEs are involved and have opportunities to
19 participate.

20 Fifth is creating educational and
21 employment opportunities. That is part of the
22 thinking behind even creating R.I.S.E. is

1 creating an educational center.

2 For those who have been to R.I.S.E.
3 you understand that we have training classes
4 here, the University of the District of Columbia
5 is our educational partner and they teach a
6 number of courses, Network Plus, Security Plus,
7 Microsoft Word and Excel classes.

8 And so, we have started to implement
9 a number of these goals in the classes even that
10 we hold here at R.I.S.E.

11 Sixth which is what Sarosh is focused
12 on is maximizing the value for the District
13 because we do have to be mindful of the
14 taxpayers' investment in this beautiful,
15 wonderful historic campus.

16 And then, seventh is create a unique
17 and interesting and dynamic place. And so, you
18 will hear us talk about a sense of place and
19 making sure that when folks come to St.
20 Elizabeth's five years from now, that it is
21 really a unique place and they're telling their
22 friends and their family members, hey, you should

1 really check out what's going on at St.

2 Elizabeth's.

3 So, to date, our completed project
4 milestones of the master plan, we also have
5 capital infrastructure improvement dollars.
6 Those infrastructure capital dollars have been
7 used to create, for example, our Pathway, the
8 R.I.S.E. Integration Center, Gateway and will
9 importantly be used to create our Stage I
10 infrastructure improvements which will allow us
11 to reuse the historic buildings.

12 We've also stabilized our 1902
13 buildings, opened Gateway and R.I.S.E., completed
14 public art projects, selected Redbrick LMD and
15 then announced this week that we have secured a
16 commitment for Events DC's entertainment sports
17 complex.

18 So, just to talk a little bit about
19 our process because so many people were involved
20 and so many people, I'm sure, remember our
21 meetings, including our four hour meetings that
22 we had with the public, to get all of the

1 questions and the answers out about who we were
2 going to select as our development partner.

3 We issued a solicitation looking for
4 a development partner in March of 2014. We held
5 a pre-response conference and we took a lot of
6 effort to reach out to everybody and anybody that
7 was interested in St. Elizabeth's because we
8 really wanted dynamic partners. We wanted
9 partners who are qualified, partners who have the
10 capacity, but also partners who were willing to
11 work with the Ward 8 community.

12 The deadline for responses for a
13 Notice of Intent to Respond was May 30th. This
14 was somewhat unusual for our office to ask for an
15 Intent for a Notice to Respond. This was mainly
16 to ensure that we actually got responses because,
17 as many folks know in Southeast, many times we
18 have one response and that really limits our
19 options and really limits our opportunity to
20 review what's best for the redevelopment effort.

21 And we received five notices, so we
22 felt comfortable moving forward with the

1 solicitation process. On June 27th, the
2 proposals were due and we received five proposals
3 from different teams, all interested in St. E's
4 and the redevelopment effort.

5 We promptly proceeded with reviewing
6 those proposals, interviewing all of the teams.
7 And then we had all of the offerers come out and
8 present to the community.

9 And so, what we did is we did a short
10 list. We had about five teams come out, present
11 to the community and, just as we did today, we
12 recorded those presentations to make sure that
13 folks could see them, ask questions, go back,
14 look at those presentations again, ask questions
15 again and really provide thoughtful input into
16 what they wanted to see here at St. E's.

17 And then, on October 31st, our public
18 comment period closed and in December, we
19 selected Redbrick LMD as our development partner.

20 So, as part of the Phase I
21 development, we have been negotiating with
22 Redbrick about exactly what the first stage of

1 the development is going to look like.

2 And so, this is the first step. There
3 will be a disposition process and we will go into
4 the redevelopment plans. But, before we go into
5 those redevelopment plans, we are asking the
6 public to allow DMPED to surplus the property.

7 And what that means is that we are no
8 longer reserving this property for public use.
9 We are looking to redevelop the four parcels that
10 we had negotiated with Redbrick LMD.

11 It does allow us, and you will see
12 later, to use a number of the other parcels for
13 public use including for our entertain and sports
14 complex.

15 We were very thoughtful, we were very
16 conservative about which parcels we would release
17 for private development first.

18 The goal was to make sure that we
19 released parcels that we, in fact, felt could be
20 redeveloped, that would have a significant impact
21 on this campus, that included the historic
22 parcels as well as a number of other parcels and

1 opportunities to really create a sense of place.

2 But, also parcels and opportunities
3 that would integrate things like affordable
4 housing, for sale opportunities, retail,
5 innovation uses mixed within the redevelopment
6 effort.

7 And so, after going back and forth
8 with Redbrick for some time, we identified these
9 four parcels as our first phase of development.
10 And we are very proud to present them.

11 So, the first one is, and I will just
12 go down the list, is Parcel 10. This parcel is
13 adjacent to the Congress Heights residential
14 neighborhood. It is currently a vacant parcel.
15 There is no development on the parcel.

16 Our master plan does require that that
17 parcel be redeveloped as residential use, mainly
18 because of its proximity to a number of other
19 homes. And so, we are looking to reuse that for
20 residential purposes.

21 Parcel 11 which is our CT campus, and
22 the CT campus is actually part of the last

1 section of buildings used by the hospital so they
2 are generally in good condition. They are a
3 cluster of seven historic buildings that, if you
4 go inside of the CT campus, you'll notice that
5 there isn't a lot of historic fabric. There are
6 some contributing features.

7 But, it's a great cluster of buildings
8 that will immediately add a sense of place and
9 really define St. Elizabeth's East. And so,
10 we're excited that the CT campus is part of this
11 first phase.

12 And then we have Parcel 14 which is
13 located along Alabama Avenue. And so, what
14 you'll see is that we are starting to create a
15 sense of place along Alabama Avenue. That is
16 intended both to leverage other redevelopment
17 efforts going on in the campus, to make sure that
18 we are being thoughtful about how we are starting
19 out the redevelopment.

20 As you can see, even just creating
21 R.I.S.E. and Gateway D.C. You can come here and
22 the campus is so huge. So, we wanted to make

1 sure that as we took the first steps, people
2 really felt like that they were somewhere, that
3 it was a large enough chunk and a dynamic enough
4 chunk that St. Elizabeth's really was a unique
5 place, but also a redevelopment effort that we
6 could see getting off the ground in the very near
7 future.

8 So, that's Parcel 14. Parcel 14 is
9 able to be both for residential uses, multi-
10 family uses, it is also a mixed use development.

11 And then, Parcel 17 which is adjacent
12 to the Congress Heights Metro Station. Our goal
13 with Parcel 17 is really to see retail. And
14 we've heard loud and clear at a number of the
15 meetings that the public wants additional retail
16 options. They want high quality retail options.

17 We have lucked out with having folks
18 like Whole Foods come out to the campus. We hope
19 to continue to have great retailers. And then,
20 also figure out how we integrate small
21 businesses.

22 And so, Parcel 17 will allow us to do

1 just that.

2 So today, what we are hoping to get,
3 and we have a transcriber here dutifully taking
4 notes for folks questions and comments, is to get
5 comments on the map that I just showed you, which
6 is the question of whether or not the District
7 can move forward with surplusing those four
8 parcels that we just defined for our first phase
9 of development.

10 In order to ensure that we receive
11 everybody's comments, we have done a number of
12 different approaches because not everybody feels
13 comfortable getting up with the microphone and
14 asking their questions and making their comments,
15 which we will record in our record.

16 But, we have also created an agenda
17 and we are asking, if you don't feel comfortable
18 saying your question out loud, that you write
19 your question down and you either hand your
20 question to myself, James Parks or Andre Swann
21 and we will take that and we will also put your
22 question on the record.

1 And, lastly, we also have created an
2 online survey. So, for folks who have comments
3 specifically on the surplus process and the
4 question as to whether or not we can surplus
5 those four parcels, we are asking members of the
6 public to leave those comments on our public
7 survey.

8 We will leave that survey up and the
9 record will remain open specifically for the
10 surplus questions until October 19th. That is
11 when we will collect all of the comments and we
12 will do our analysis and we will create a report
13 and include those comments and send it to the
14 council in our surplus and disposition package.

15 So, after -- what we're going to do
16 is, we're going to have folks who are here to
17 provide comments and ask questions. And then,
18 after we go over the questions, initial questions
19 and comments, we will go through the disposition
20 overview.

21 Just for our own technical process
22 reasons, we are starting with the surplus and

1 then we will move into the overview of the
2 disposition. But, we want to get the initial
3 questions and comments out first.

4 So, if you have a question or comment
5 specifically on the surplus process, I ask that
6 you come, introduce yourself, say your name, say
7 your Ward, so that our transcriber can make sure
8 we identify you properly and then start to ask
9 your question.

10 So, with that being said, I would like
11 to open it up for questions on the surplus
12 process.

13 MR. GREENHILL: Larry Greenhill,
14 District of Columbia Electrical Association.

15 My question is, how are we going to
16 link -- it's 14.1 percent unemployment in Ward 8,
17 so how are we going to link our residents, the
18 Ward 8 residents, to these jobs? Is it going to
19 be like a job hiring place on the campus? I mean
20 how are we going to do that? What's the process
21 going to be with that?

22 MS. BUELL: That's great.

1 And for some of the questions, we are
2 going to note your questions because we are not
3 necessarily going to have the answer.

4 To answer the question, though, we
5 have not made the determination of how we're
6 going to have a job center, if you will, here on
7 the campus.

8 For example, the West campus, they
9 actually had a trailer that they set up. Part of
10 the challenge is, is that they have thousands of
11 people show up for 200 jobs.

12 We hope to be more thoughtful about
13 how we do that for both Gateway and for R.I.S.E.
14 We referred job seekers to the Department of
15 Employment Services and filtered those
16 applications through the Department of Employment
17 Services.

18 We also worked with the Office of
19 Returning Citizens to identify applicants who
20 could come here and work on the campus.

21 And we had a number of very successful
22 hires through both of those routes.

1 We will be working with Redbrick to
2 figure out how exactly we identify employment
3 opportunities, market those employment
4 opportunities without essentially over-promising,
5 but also making sure that we're thoughtful about
6 making sure that those employment opportunities
7 for each Ward 8 resident.

8 Other questions? This is not a shy
9 group.

10 MR. MPULUBUSI EL: Good afternoon
11 everyone. I'm Tendani MPULUBUSI El, founder and
12 President of Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council.

13 Raise your hand if you work with the
14 Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council.

15 I'd like to definitely acknowledge the
16 fact that we are finally at the point where we
17 are going to actually build something that's
18 going to help build up the community.

19 Now, in terms of how we build the
20 community, that's up to us and that's why I'm
21 right here, right now and that's why I'm at the
22 table in the department's process the whole time.

1 It's definitely a neat surprise about
2 the Mystics and the Wizards who will become an
3 anchor institution that will help active the rest
4 of this development.

5 But, for the record, because today is
6 a public hearing for the community on the record
7 about its support or lack of support or whatever
8 you want to say about this project, on the
9 record, definitely would like to say that, first
10 of all, in order to build economic opportunity,
11 you've got to build an infrastructure that that
12 opportunity can exist.

13 And I do believe that this process has
14 been one that's been very affirmative in giving
15 people enough opportunity to have their voice
16 heard. And I'd say that the infrastructure that
17 is going to be built here is going to be one that
18 could create a viable socio-economic opportunity
19 for people who live in Ward 8 that choose to be a
20 part of it like I do.

21 So, that's just some things that are
22 happening at this place. Particularly, I already

1 mentioned is to facilitate a socio-economic
2 development via arts, culture and technology.
3 So, these are the kind of uses that that we want
4 to see taken in terms of activating some of the
5 space.

6 But new space and this provides space
7 in our Ward and retail and this is the part that
8 will help stimulate some economic development and
9 create an economy over here east of the river.

10 So, anybody in the community that has
11 a comment, please it on the record today because
12 that's what this is for. It's being recorded and
13 submitted to the District government in order to
14 help move this process forward or really identify
15 any red flags that have come up.

16 So, today is a real important day.
17 And I'd like to ask all of our members who
18 support the Arts and Culture Council at least
19 give a comment about how this project, you know,
20 can activate the community.

21 Peace.

22 MS. TAYLOR: Good morning. My name is

1 Maka Taylor, I am a Ward 8 resident.

2 So, when I saw the Wizards -- so I
3 work to be positive, first of all, but when we
4 look at statistics in Ward 8 and we understand
5 gentrification as it happens, it can be a very
6 scary thing to look at.

7 So, I work to stay in the know and I
8 knew nothing about the Wizards coming to this
9 area. That was a red flag for me because I work
10 to like to stay in the D.C. information.

11 And I'm saying that to say that I kind
12 of emoted when I first saw it online because it
13 did not look like that was building forward for
14 us or those that this community current serves.
15 It almost looks as if there will be a pushing
16 out. But I'm not sure. I'm saying that to say
17 that that was my thoughts.

18 And I just want to say that whatever
19 happens within the development, I would like to,
20 or for the government to make sure that the
21 current community is not blatantly affected in
22 negative manners. That's all I'm looking for.

1 There are a lot of people in this
2 community who may not necessarily involve
3 themselves in these processes. There are people
4 who may not even stand for whatever reason. And
5 those are the people that I do want to speak for.

6 And I just would like to make sure
7 that they are not blatantly disadvantaged as a
8 result of this project. That's my only concern.

9 This is a major development with this
10 being the practice grounds for this NBA team, and
11 NBA and Ward 8 are not currently consistent, if
12 that makes sense.

13 So, thank you for allowing me my
14 comments.

15 Ward 8 Arts and Culture Council is
16 definitely an activator of creative economies,
17 amongst other things, in stimulating personal
18 wealth and health.

19 And so, yes, I just want to make sure
20 this community is not any more affected by this
21 great thing so that they can also be great.

22 Thank you.

1 MS. CUTHBERT: Good morning. I'm Mary
2 Cuthbert. I'm the Chair for Advisory
3 Neighborhood Commission 8C in which St.
4 Elizabeth's is located.

5 I was just talking with one of the
6 Commissioners that came.

7 We're concerned about how we're going
8 to maintain the residents who live here when all
9 this development began to take place? My biggest
10 concern is, yes, the Wizards are coming and many
11 people addressed the issue, is what's going to
12 happen to the residents who have been here
13 through all the changes that took place in this
14 Ward? That's the biggest concern.

15 The second concern is with the
16 developer who's developing the townhouses and
17 everything. Are they going to be at the market
18 rate affordable or are they affordable for the
19 people who live here who could purchase them?
20 That's a concern.

21 I want that on the record from ANC 8C
22 and I'm Mary Cuthbert, it's from the

1 Commissioners and that's important because we are
2 concerned about the residents who live here.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. THOMAS: Good morning everyone.
5 My name is Harold Thomas and I'm a community
6 advocate and I'm a youth advocate and on behalf
7 of my youth advocacy, I would like to go on
8 record as requesting that there be equity in this
9 development process for our youth.

10 And in that light, I would like to see
11 that the clothing, retail and accessory outlet
12 inclusive in the Phase I development plan in St.
13 E operated by high school and college students.

14 In this respect, it would be a win-win
15 situation for all because when students work,
16 they pay taxes. And when they pay taxes, the
17 city benefits.

18 So, I would like to go on record as
19 saying how I would like to see inclusive,
20 Redbrick, AEDC and clothing retail and outlet
21 business on this campus operated by high school
22 and college students and under the supervision of

1 adult professional guidance.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. MENDOZA: Good morning. My name
4 is Andriana Mendoza and I'm with the Ward 8 Arts
5 and Culture Council. During the day, I'm a
6 landscape architect.

7 And so, I actually travel back and
8 forth from Bethesda to Ward 8 probably three
9 times a week.

10 I'm born and raised in Washington,
11 D.C. so I've seen all the changes, 8th Street,
12 14th Street, U Street, and all these developments
13 have created a lack of sense of place. I don't
14 get a sense of community there of what I used to
15 see.

16 And so, I keep on hearing this word,
17 sense of place, and as a landscape architect
18 that's what we do is create sense of place.

19 And I know, as firm, that's part of my
20 firm, our first approach to design is really
21 understand what that process is to create a sense
22 of place.

1 And so, I'm wondering what you define
2 as a sense of place? If you've defined it yet?
3 If not, when in the design process do you figure
4 that out? Because that has to be the first step
5 in order to make something that's really an
6 anchor to the community.

7 MS. JEFFERSON: Good morning. My name
8 is Alicia Jefferson and I am a Ward 4 resident,
9 but I am also the Director of Technology for the
10 Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council.

11 So, I wanted to take this opportunity
12 to say that I support this program and that it's
13 true, we need a lot of space and resources to
14 help our children here and the young youth. We
15 have a lot of innovative programs that we're
16 trying to work.

17 I'm also a member of President Obama's
18 America Makes and we discuss part of this
19 education and technology to help improve
20 manufacturing and jobs and opportunities for our
21 kids.

22 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: Thank you.

1 My name is Anthony Muhammad. I'm the
2 Chair of ANC 8E that borders this St. Elizabeth
3 project.

4 A lot of development is coming and I
5 would like to see a black law firm, a black
6 architecture firm. I would like to see those
7 soft money businesses come in.

8 I would like to see entrepreneurs
9 become millionaires from this project. I don't
10 care how much the Wizards or the Mystics are
11 going to add 5,000 people in this project. A lot
12 of millionaires was made when Marion Barry was
13 the mayor in our Capitol, black millionaires that
14 ended moving out.

15 We would like to see that take place
16 as the poor gets pushed down. They have the
17 highest amount -- we have the highest amount of
18 disparities in Ward 8. The illiteracy rate is
19 the highest anywhere in the country, not just in
20 Ward 8. They can't read. They graduate. They
21 social promote from high schools, children out of
22 school that cannot read, can't fill out a job

1 application.

2 I would like to see a general
3 contractor that's black in and on this project.

4 In 801, the homeless shelter, I would
5 like to see you go down there and pre-certify so-
6 called workers that can work and hold a flag. If
7 they can't read, they can hold a flag. They can
8 direct traffic. They can sweep and clean up. I
9 would like to see that take place from the 801.

10 And go to all other section or housing
11 choice voucher, people that live here that's
12 hanging on the corner and collect names and hire
13 those that's hanging on the corner and then
14 document those who said, "I'm not going to work."

15 Help those who don't have a license,
16 a driver's license, because you can't get a job
17 without it.

18 Some don't even have a birth
19 certificate because it costs \$23.00. Some don't
20 have a Social Security card because they don't
21 know that they can go down the street to get a
22 Social Security card.

1 These are some social things that have
2 to take place before you even get started with
3 some of the people that they say they want you to
4 hire that live in Ward 8. And it's hard to hire
5 you if you can't read, if you can't write, if you
6 don't have a driver's license.

7 I would like to see you go to see
8 CSOSA with the pre-release program and hire some
9 of them. Go to Hope Village to help some of them
10 get out of Hope Village because they can't get
11 out unless they have a job and somewhere to live.

12 Those are just some of the small
13 things that need to be done to help Muriel Bowser
14 move them to the next level of middle class.

15 Just having a job and a driver's
16 license and a birth certificate and a Social
17 Security card which costs money. And some do not
18 have these small things that you don't even think
19 about any longer because you have them.

20 Ward 8, the disparities are high and
21 we want some of you millionaires that's in this
22 room to help. You have an obligation, to whom

1 much is given, much is required.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN: Good morning. My name is
4 Tom Brown.

5 I've done a tremendous amount of work
6 here in Ward 8, lived back and forth between Ward
7 8 and Ward 7 and I just call it Ward 15, for the
8 record.

9 Exactly everything that I heard the
10 ANC Commissioners come up and say exactly why I'm
11 proud to be in conversation and working very
12 closely with the Redbrick team.

13 If you all know anything about my
14 work, we're training grounds and being the co-
15 chair with Marion Barry at the Ward 8 Workforce
16 Council over the past seven, this is our issue.

17 Everything that Commissioner Muhammad
18 laid out is what it is that we're most concerned
19 about, what we're entrenched in. We actually
20 have designs and proof to show you the
21 effectiveness of not just the economy, but how it
22 also affects the public safety and the crime.

1 I can show you official documentation
2 given to me in the last seven days of a specific
3 area in Ward 8 that we've been doing this same
4 model that we're going to introduce to this
5 project.

6 I just learned a few days ago that we
7 saw an over 25 percent violent crime reduction in
8 Ward 8, specifically in the area where the model
9 I've been working for the past 12 months has been
10 in effect and it's economically tied.

11 Chris Smith, or William C. Smith, and
12 I got together and we're running this and it
13 worked and he's elated.

14 But, I'm saying it's in Ward 8, which
15 is making the news, I can show on the
16 Metropolitan Police report I was just handed that
17 in that area violent crime is down over 25
18 percent because we tied economics to everything
19 that the Commissioners just stood up there and
20 said.

21 It's about a plan and if you don't
22 have a plan, well, we know that you'll be playing

1 the pump.

2 I'm at the table and I can tell you
3 with Redbrick, I have been with them since day
4 one, they're not going to allow and I'm not going
5 to allow us to be playing the pump. That's for
6 the record.

7 MS. BUELL: Thank you.

8 MS. WHEELER-STYLES: Good morning. My
9 name is Rosalind Wheeler-Styles. The Wheelers
10 were born and raised here in Ward 8.

11 And for the past 15 years, my company
12 has done compliance.

13 Is -- oh, she's gone? Mary Cuthbert
14 has left? Oh, okay.

15 The reason I wanted to talk to her is
16 that, yes, we can have all the best dreams in the
17 world, but I had the opportunity to travel around
18 the country with the Peace Corps and I came back
19 and said I'm going to help my neighborhood.

20 But, there's one thing missing out of
21 good intentions and that is a deliverable -- a
22 piece of paper that has a signed contract.

1 When St. Elizabeth was first
2 redeveloped, the Unified Communications Center,
3 we struck agreement with the ASA commission and
4 the government to have a written document, a
5 Memorandum of Understanding between the
6 neighborhood and the government to ensure the
7 things that everybody has stood here and asked
8 for.

9 When St. Elizabeth's Hospital was
10 built, Mary Cuthbert sat down at the table with
11 the Office of the Chief Technology and signed a
12 Memorandum of Understanding between the developer
13 and the ANC representing the community.

14 That's what you need to have.
15 Everybody can have a dream. Everybody can have
16 good intentions, but if you have a piece of paper
17 that has your signature on it, then you have a
18 written document to ensure that your needs are
19 met.

20 And so, what I'm interested in doing
21 with Redbrick and the Office of the Deputy Mayor
22 for Planning and Economic Development is to help

1 to draw up that document that talks about
2 training, that talks about the development, that
3 talks about entry-level positions, mid-level
4 positions, that talks about how do you ensure
5 that the people who live here, who were born and
6 raised here, who have suffered here, who have
7 stayed the course can be at the front line in
8 terms of getting their economic due.

9 Have it in writing and if they don't
10 stand up to what they have professed, then you
11 have something to take them to court and shut
12 them down. Because we've done this before and
13 these are the kinds of opportunities that only
14 come by every once in a while. You cannot afford
15 to say, "Oops, we didn't take it."

16 And the last note I'm going to leave
17 you with is that the UCC project was the first
18 government agreement that took the goal out of
19 participation and put the requirement in
20 participation.

21 It is not a goal, it's a requirement.
22 And so, if you are required to do something, then

1 you must do it. And all the good faith and good
2 intentions and honorable mentions does not count.
3 The deliverables is really what counts.

4 And so, I want to go on record saying
5 that we're hoping that the Deputy Mayor's office
6 and Redbrick are willing to sit down and
7 negotiate an agreement with the community and you
8 put that -- outline all of your deliverables and
9 then we stand and hold them accountable.

10 MS. JONES: Greetings, greetings. I
11 am LaTasha Jones. I'm a Ward 8 mother, a Ward 8
12 community activist, a children activist of Ward
13 8. I am also a Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council
14 member. Did I say I'm a Ward 8 educator? I do a
15 lot of things in Ward 8.

16 I am a corner talker to all the young
17 men on the corner. I do all those wonderful
18 things.

19 And, for me, I demand that I have one
20 of those 60 houses that are there.

21 I'm an educator. I do plenty of work
22 in the community. It's mine. It's mine, it's

1 not a question, this is not a comment. It's a
2 demand.

3 I do hope to be at all the tables,
4 and, Redbrick, you will be hearing from me.
5 Again, my name's LaTasha Jones.

6 My son is a student at Duke Ellington
7 School of the Arts. He is studying technical
8 production and design. He has done plenty of
9 work with lighting and events that are held here
10 and I do expect him as well to be employed, if
11 not have his own business in Ward 8 that he is
12 starting now at the age of 16.

13 So, our requirements and I do plan to
14 have a contract, something in writing, so you
15 guys will hear from me. You will see my face a
16 lot, if you haven't already.

17 And I'm just grateful, (a) for the
18 opportunities that are being presented for the
19 people of my community, those who choose to take
20 part in it because I'm not going to be ignorant
21 because I try to get people to get their resumes
22 and help them get back in school. Some people

1 show up, some people don't show up.

2 So, for those that do want those
3 things, I do expect for those things to be
4 provided for the people in this community. And I
5 am definitely a voice for those who maybe don't
6 have a voice or maybe don't ever get up and talk.

7 But, I have a requirement for you guys
8 and you will hear a lot from me and I can be such
9 a thorn in your side. So, get to know me and
10 it's a pleasure.

11 Bless.

12 MR. BUNN: Good morning everyone. My
13 name is Rodney and I'm the Chairman of Congress
14 Heights Main Streets. We're located down here in
15 Congress Heights.

16 I think my concern is more for DMPED
17 than it is for Redbrick. I've been part of the
18 Redbrick team and we've been working together.
19 So, we've got a great group of developers here
20 who really realize the need to activate the
21 community and use community-based resources to
22 make this project work.

1 But, I did see the Director of
2 Development, I think he left out that day. Did
3 he? Okay, well, just make sure you put this on
4 the record because I want to make sure that he
5 gets a heads up on this.

6 My concern is with the property taxes.
7 And the reason I say that is because you have
8 others like Shaw or Georgetown and they will have
9 a big government investment. The government will
10 come invest \$100 million or so. In the area of
11 the investment, five years, property taxes are
12 double what they were before their investment got
13 there.

14 So, you're taking businesses that have
15 been there 10 or 12 years, you're taking
16 homeowners who've been there 10, 20 or 30 years
17 and you're gentrifying them. You're basically
18 kicking them out because now you've got a Wizards
19 stadium that's two blocks from my house and two
20 years ago, my property taxes were \$6,000.00 and
21 now they're \$18,000.00.

22 That a real reality and that's

1 something that you may not be seeing, but as a
2 property owner in Congress Heights, you've been
3 in Congress Heights for 30 years, I don't think
4 that's going to be acceptable for DMPED to come
5 and say, well, we want to give you guys this new
6 stadium, but we're not going to give you a
7 property tax abatement.

8 I mean, if you look at deals all
9 around this country, even in Washington, D.C.,
10 they give companies millions of dollars in tax
11 abatements for 20 years to come and build
12 something or build a project to a certain part of
13 town.

14 But, what are doing for the community?
15 What are they doing for the businesses who stuck
16 it out when there was no public investment or
17 there wasn't anyone saying, hey, we want to build
18 something to your community to enhance your
19 business or enhance your property value?

20 So, you know, just for the record, I
21 just want to put that out that can we have a real
22 conversation about doing something for the

1 residents and the business owners and the
2 property owners that's located in this area whose
3 property taxes are going to triple in the next
4 ten years?

5 Thank you.

6 MS. MORTON: Good morning. My name is
7 Kemi Morten. I'm an attorney. I've been in the
8 area for, oh, I guess, 30 years I've lived in
9 Ward 8. I know many of you in the audience.

10 I'm a lawyer. I used to be Chair of
11 the Police Review Board here. I was kicked out
12 because I was too strong and favored the
13 community, so the FOP really pushed me out.

14 And I kept working in the community.
15 I've been in Africa for the last four years.
16 I've been living there and it's been wonderful.
17 I've been in Zimbabwe and I've been in Zanzibar
18 and been relaxing.

19 And I came back here and I found out
20 about this project.

21 I used to work for one of the giants
22 in this community, Wilhelmina Rolark. I don't --

1 how many of you know Wilhelmina Rolark? Do you
2 know that name? She was a giant for this
3 community and her husband, Calvin Rolark and
4 Marion Barry.

5 And I remember when Marion got the
6 federal government to give us this land. I was
7 there when he made the announcement. He got up
8 and he said, good morning. And you're supposed
9 to say good morning back.

10 And he said, "we is here." And we
11 were really here. It was a great moment and that
12 was 1979. Right? And here we are in 2015.

13 So, I associate myself with all of the
14 remarks of all of the previous speakers. And I
15 commend Redbrick. I have looked at your plan, I
16 think it's a good plan. I think you've got good
17 people on your team.

18 But please take into consideration the
19 comments that have been made here today. Please
20 do that because that's very important to this
21 community.

22 We don't want a project that's going

1 to displace our community. We want a project
2 that's going to enhance our community. We want
3 the dreams of Marion Barry and Wilhelmina Rolark
4 and Calvin Rolark, we want that to be reflected
5 in this community because this is our community.

6 And, having said that, we need to
7 negotiate deals with the government, as the prior
8 speaker said on the tax issue. That's a very,
9 very important issue. And that's something we,
10 the people, need to negotiate with our government
11 and our mayor.

12 So, having said that, let's move.
13 Let's get this thing going.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. SMITH-BROWN: Good morning
16 everyone. My name is Beverly Smith-Brown. I am
17 a three generation Ward 8 resident, a mom. I'm
18 also a business owner here in Ward 8.

19 And I just really want to piggyback
20 off of what Ms. LaTasha Jones said. She really
21 took the words right out of my mouth.

22 We have been working in this community

1 and living in this community raising our children
2 and I'm really here today just to ensure that our
3 culture will be preserved here, to make sure -- I
4 really believe in, you know, bettering our
5 community.

6 But, we have some really great people
7 right here in our community that have been here,
8 you know, just putting, you know, just working
9 hard, grinding hard without any funding, without
10 any housing, doing things that we have to do.
11 And we know the community. We have a heart for
12 the community.

13 So, I really -- I encourage you all to
14 reach out to the community leaders here that are
15 doing the ground work, that's on the front line
16 doing things and giving us a position right here
17 in Ward 8.

18 I thank everyone for coming out and
19 just really representing Ward 8, everyone that
20 came up and spoke. Because we really need to
21 have our voice heard.

22 I thank you all for this opportunity.

1 My name is Beverly Smith-Brown. I am here
2 representing Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council and
3 we will contact you. We will be. And, like she
4 said, we'll be a thorn in your side. We have
5 something to say, we have a culture here that
6 really needs to be preserved and we want to make
7 sure that that happens.

8 So, I thank you all, again.

9 MR. STONHAM: Hi. Good morning. I'm
10 David Stronham. I'm a CBE general contractor and
11 I live in the District, live in Ward 7, been a
12 resident of Ward 7 and 8 for 35 years and I hire
13 D.C. residents on all of our D.C. government
14 projects.

15 How many of you all play Bingo? All
16 right, I want you to look at the back of this
17 sheet of paper right here. And, on the back, you
18 see these blocks here. And the blocks, you will
19 see 75 affordable housing and my zero to 50
20 percent affordable housing out of the 250
21 apartments, 60 new homes, 35 percent CBE business
22 opportunities, 1,500 jobs.

1 To hold the team accountable, I want
2 you to play Bingo on this sheet. Because I've
3 been with multiple contractors across the city
4 that talk the game of hiring, that say that they
5 plan to hire, they say that they can't find
6 someone to hire.

7 But, you hold us accountable by
8 playing Bingo. So, as jobs come across, I want
9 you to check it off or put a Ward 8 sticker on
10 each one of these blocks so when we come back
11 with a community that is satisfied, happy,
12 invigorated and they made those changes and taken
13 care of your needs, taken care of the young lady
14 that was a teacher, getting her son working
15 opportunities.

16 I wouldn't join the team unless I knew
17 that the Redbrick team was committed to doing
18 this.

19 So, I'm telling you here today, and
20 many of you know me, I'm a former ANC
21 Commissioner and this is what you hold us
22 accountable for that's in writing. So, please do

1 that.

2 And, thank you.

3 MR. FREEMAN: My name is Kymore
4 Freeman. I represent We Act Radio which is
5 located at 1918 Martin Luther King Avenue. I'm
6 at the top of Martin Luther King Avenue on the
7 radical side of Martin Luther King Avenue.

8 I just want to reiterate the things I
9 agree with. I want to thank the sister that
10 spoke about an MOU and I want the brother that
11 spoke about the tax abatement for our property
12 taxes.

13 Because it's not just property owners,
14 because most of you, if you don't know, a lot of
15 business have what they call a 360 lease deal
16 where the tenant is actually paying the property
17 tax for that building. It used to be unheard of,
18 but now that's not the case anymore.

19 For those who do not know, and for
20 those who do know, correct me if I am wrong, but
21 as I am -- my understanding is that this St.
22 Elizabeth's project is about \$10 billion value

1 project, please, someone correct me if I'm wrong.
2 And if that is the case, it is the largest land
3 acquisition in the history of the United States
4 of America since the Louisiana Purchase. I want
5 y'all to understand, you know, just put things in
6 perspective here. Okay? That's how serious this
7 is.

8 And we all know that Ward 7, Ward 8 is
9 the last frontier. After this, you're in
10 Maryland on the river. Okay? So, I just want to
11 put things in perspective.

12 So, if they don't make the cut now,
13 you know what that is.

14 Okay, now having said that, we know
15 that businesses coming to this city, as was
16 mentioned earlier, with tax incentives, many of
17 them offer ten years of tax exemption to come
18 there and bring all that comes with them. Ten
19 years. But, existing businesses don't get that
20 type of consideration.

21 And we also know the inequitable
22 relationship of this city for east of the river.

1 All right, having said that, that
2 means that the rules must change for this deal.
3 A new set of rules.

4 How many of y'all watch Bill Maher?
5 New rules. Okay? New rules is my suggestion.
6 We want to have to have an MOU that outlines
7 these new rules. One with also not just a tax
8 abatement, I want to see property tax cap. I
9 want to see a property tax cap for all existing
10 property owners and residents capped.

11 For the new ones, you're on your own,
12 but for those who existed, cap it. I want to see
13 that in there.

14 I also want to see a different AMI,
15 Area Median Income, that is supposedly where we
16 take the highest and the lowest of some of the
17 richest areas in the country and we pull that
18 number out of the middle and somehow that's fair
19 - that's fair to the top 50 percent, unfair to
20 the bottom 50 percent. So, we need a different
21 AMI. All right?

22 We want something more like 30 percent

1 of your income determines your housing, a term,
2 when you say affordable.

3 We need to change that language
4 because affordable housing is too ambiguous.
5 It's a code word, affordable housing. A million
6 dollar house is affordable to somebody. You say
7 affordable to you, they ain't talking to you.
8 All right?

9 So, what we want to hear -- and the
10 federal guideline, I wish it was a mandate, but
11 the federal guideline, just so you know I'm not
12 pulling numbers out of the air, is that you
13 should be paying 30 percent of your income in
14 housing.

15 How many of y'all paying more than 30
16 percent of your income in housing right now?
17 Seriously, put your hand up. If you're paying
18 more than 30 percent of your income right now,
19 oh, y'all are doing good. Y'all are doing good
20 because you is half the room.

21 Thirty percent of your income in
22 housing is what you're paying. Most of us -- a

1 lot of us outside this room are paying a lot more
2 than that. That should be in that new rule and
3 when we talk in terms of what is affordable for
4 this area.

5 So, I just want to say that. And I
6 hope this question does get answered because we
7 do need to figure out how do we draw up an MOU?
8 Who's going to be involved in that process?
9 What's going to be in those new rules?

10 And, my strong suggestion is a
11 property tax cap on existing businesses and
12 residents, also a redefined AMI for 30 percent of
13 your income for determining what is actually
14 affordable. Because we know that we've seen
15 what's happened all over this city, so we can
16 learn from what worked and we can learn from what
17 hasn't worked.

18 So, you can't really sell us something
19 different because that's the model you're going
20 by. So, we all know what that is.

21 So, we need a new set of rules when
22 turn to the builder, we're the last great

1 frontier.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BUELL: Thank you.

4 MS. VOSS: Good morning. My name is
5 Lynette Voss and I'm a part of Ward 8. I'm also
6 a part of the Ward 8 Arts and Cultural Council.

7 I was born and raised in D.C., grew up
8 right up the street from the Big K Liquor Store.
9 I'm sure all of you guys know the Big K Liquor
10 Store.

11 Ward 8 has always been a part of my
12 family and a part of my heart. Got married,
13 divorced now. He moved me -- I was married to a
14 doctor who moved me out of Ward 8 and I couldn't
15 be away from it, so I came back.

16 I'm a business owner on Good Hope
17 Road. My business is Vintage and Charmed Classic
18 Clothing and we're inside of the Anacostia Arts
19 Center.

20 Now, I'm going to piggyback on a lot
21 of things that -- I'm going to be brief, but I am
22 going to piggyback on LaTasha Jones. LaTasha

1 Jones. LaTasha Jones because she said she was
2 going to be a thorn in your side, so I just had
3 to repeat her name three times and also Rodney
4 Bunn.

5 Being in retail, I came back to Ward
6 8 specifically to open my store. It was in
7 Maryland at one point and they just weren't very
8 friendly in Maryland.

9 When I came back to Ward 8, they just
10 -- it was like family. It was like coming back
11 home.

12 So, this is where I want to be. This
13 is where I want my store to be. I'm on the D.C.
14 line as far as where I live in Oxon Hill. I
15 would like to move back to D.C. It would be nice
16 to move in one of these facilities here.

17 But, one of my major concerns, being
18 a part of the Anacostia Arts Center, I've been
19 there for two years already and I keep hearing
20 from the Ward 8 community that I didn't know you
21 were here.

22 And one of my -- I think they didn't

1 know that I was inside the Anacostia Arts Center
2 because it's just not very welcoming to the
3 community. I hope I don't get in trouble for
4 this comment, but it's just not very welcoming to
5 the community.

6 They came in, they built this
7 beautiful Arts Center but it's just not very
8 welcoming to the community.

9 I advocate for community, you know,
10 outreach and bringing the community in, letting
11 some of the kids come in after school, learn
12 about art, a place -- a beautiful lobby with WiFi
13 that they could come in and do their homework and
14 it's just not very welcoming.

15 So, I stand to say that I hope this
16 beautiful facility, all the Ward 8 residents
17 around it, are not afraid to walk in those gates,
18 are not afraid to come in. Hopefully, it can be
19 welcoming to them, inviting to them, that you can
20 own one of these stores. You can own one of
21 these houses. I expect to own one of the stores.

22 We have a lot of store owners here in

1 Ward 8, we do. Some are residents of Ward 8,
2 most are not. They get in their cars with their
3 Virginia tags and they go back to Virginia.

4 And, hopefully, hopefully, this
5 facility, at least 80 percent of those business
6 owners will get in their cars with D.C. tags and
7 go right across the street to their homes.

8 That's my comment. Thank you.

9 MS. DENNIS: Hello everyone. I'm Evon
10 and I'm with the Ward 8 Arts and Culture Council.

11 And I am here today to put my comment
12 on the record that, as someone who works with the
13 Ward 8 Arts and Culture Council for our children
14 and families, for holistic programming as well as
15 youth programming, I think it's most important
16 that whatever actions are being promised are not
17 facades, that there really is an interest and
18 desire to see our children and families here in
19 Ward 8 where this project is going to be to see
20 them actually prosper and be able to grow from
21 this project, being involved in this project,
22 that there are open doors and open arms for our

1 children and families to participate.

2 And that's what I think is most
3 important, that it's not a facade, that this is
4 an actual desire of Redbrick and whomever else is
5 involved. Because our children and families need
6 opportunities to be able to consistently improve
7 upon what it is that they know now and what
8 they're going to know, not just for the for
9 themselves, but for their children and their
10 children's children and their children's
11 children's children.

12 So, that's what I have to say. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. BUELL: Thank you.

15 MR. LINDSEY: Good morning. My name
16 is Charles Lindsey, Ward 8 resident, ANC 8C07,
17 been living here my entire life aside of some
18 military duty in Iraq.

19 I'm really excited about this project.
20 I remember growing up here running through St.
21 Elizabeth when it was a fully functional place,
22 played football at Number 11.

1 To me, I'm just -- this is real, the
2 real project is some real meat and bones. I
3 think that the Redbrick developer team is great
4 and I'm excited.

5 What I want us to do is think long-
6 term. This is a 20-year project. Redbrick is
7 just a -- I think the developer of the first
8 phase. We've got to think long-term. You know,
9 when I say long-term, everybody has all of these
10 great ideas of how do you help Ward 8 businesses?
11 That's awesome.

12 How do we help Ward 8 residents,
13 working on a property tax cap, how do we get as
14 much affordable housing, all that?

15 But, what we also need, I think, is an
16 entity that can kind of control it. So, I'm
17 thinking outside the box a little bit. Right?

18 Because there are a lot of Ward 8
19 nonprofits that want a piece. But, I think I
20 would like to see maybe a foundation created of
21 one entity that the developer funds and the
22 Deputy Mayor funds, put some -- so that this

1 entity can help control and manage all of the
2 expectations.

3 This entity is intricately involved
4 with this community benefits agreement that
5 everybody -- that Rosalind talked about and
6 everybody else talked about.

7 Because what I don't want is everybody
8 going to the developer trying to get something
9 and we're divided. See, we can easily be divided
10 because everybody has their own interests.
11 Everybody wants this, this and this.

12 I think if we have one entity sort of
13 created that the developer helps -- and then the
14 developer is not going to be the chairman of this
15 entity. Right? The Deputy Mayor will not be --
16 or the government -- they have a seat at the
17 table, obviously, because they're putting money
18 into the entity, but they maybe have a Board
19 Member, but let the chair or the Board be
20 controlled, maybe a third of the community, have
21 the Deputy Mayor, a few people on the Board as
22 well as the developer.

1 And, in my experience, you can't have
2 everybody going to the developer trying to cut
3 deals and get something. You have one entity
4 that can control it, that entity can get the
5 funds or maybe a portion of the revenues or
6 something from the project can be funneled back
7 into -- I'm sorry, excuse me -- can be funneled
8 back into the foundation and help disburse those
9 funds to the community.

10 I just don't want us to -- this
11 project to divide us. And I hear everybody out
12 here having all of these different agendas. And,
13 I'll be honest, a lot of them are agendas.

14 When you say, hey, I want this, I want
15 this, that's an agenda. Is your agenda for the
16 community or is your agenda about you and your
17 family?

18 And, to me, your agenda has to be
19 about advancing Ward 8. We have been the last,
20 the least, the lost as my former boss man, Marion
21 Barry always said.

22 We've got to look at this long-term.

1 Because see, this foundation, if you will, I'm
2 not sure of what Redbrick will win the next phase
3 or who will win the next phase.

4 So, we need an entity that will
5 continue to live through each phase. So, the
6 next Phase II, hey, that entity will still be in
7 place to work with that developer. Right?

8 So, that's just my two cents. I'm
9 excited. I think that the team is great. I like
10 the fact that they come to Ward 8 and they're
11 working with the folks, they're having these
12 meetings.

13 And, when people say I didn't hear
14 about this notice. I'm not buying that because
15 the Deputy Mayor team has done a fantastic job.
16 Catherine has done an awesome job getting the
17 word out, emailing, she makes personal phone
18 calls.

19 If you want to be involved with this
20 project, come to the meetings, come to the ANC
21 meetings, come to the Community Civic Association
22 meetings.

1 I mean, they've done a really good job
2 in my opinion of reaching out. But, we can't be
3 divided. Don't let this project divide you when
4 you say this is my household. It's not about
5 your household, this is about the bigger -- the
6 larger Ward 8 community.

7 So, that's all I have to say. I'm
8 excited, I can't wait to walk to a Mystics game,
9 can't wait to walk to St. Elizabeth.

10 You know, I want to buy a suit or
11 something, I can't buy a suit in Ward 8. I can't
12 buy a pair of dress shoes in Ward 8, a tie. And
13 I don't wear tennis shoes like everybody. There
14 is a, you know, \$3.4 billion industry, I can't
15 buy -- I don't wear it every day. Right?

16 And, we have professionals here that
17 would like to buy basic things and all that, can
18 you buy a set of dishes in your community?
19 Right? Can you buy -- I mean, you know, we
20 really can't.

21 So, let's move this project forward
22 because the other things is, it's better to move

1 forward people with or without you. Let's make
2 sure we put an entity together that can manage it
3 and manage expectations.

4 Thank you, that's all I have to say.

5 MR. TAYLOR: How you doing? I'm
6 Detwon Taylor. I'm with -- I came with the Ward
7 8 ACC. I'm with the shooters program and be
8 basically like we shoot people with cameras, not
9 guns.

10 Well, me first, I'm down the street at
11 Barry Farms. I'm a videographer. I've been
12 doing it for like, well, since I was 17, I'm
13 about to turn 22 now and I've been like -- that's
14 like my business I run, I've been doing it by
15 myself.

16 And like people like others -- I know
17 it's a lot of people that like want me to help
18 them but I can't help them. You need like, first
19 of all space and a professional place to do it,
20 you can't just walk up to them and I have to just
21 tell them.

22 But, as far as like it would be good

1 because like it'd be easy like more people would
2 want to get involved with it if it's a better
3 environment, just seem like it's made for that
4 instead of somebody just trying to help people
5 like just -- but they don't really have the
6 things to do it, but if they have the things,
7 well that'd be better. People would want to get
8 involved because it'd seem like a better time
9 that they could get help with it.

10 So, I think that'd be good for that.
11 And, like, that's it.

12 MS. BUELL: What would make you want
13 to come here?

14 MR. TAYLOR: What would make me want
15 to come? If it was like a good foundation, if it
16 looked like it really could help and they know
17 like they had the proper tools and things that
18 look like what you need. You don't want to just
19 get help from somebody that don't look like they
20 can really help you.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Good afternoon everybody.

1 My name is Demetrius Brown. I'm also known as
2 Entity -- I have a production company called
3 Entity Music.

4 I'm a Ward 8 resident, born and
5 raised, actually, right down the street on
6 Wheeler Road. I actually still stay in that area
7 as well, too.

8 One of the biggest things that we've
9 always tried to push for, and I know you've
10 probably heard the term creative economy,
11 creative economy, and a lot of people don't
12 really understand what that means.

13 You know, what it means for us is just
14 giving us an opportunity, the residents and
15 people in Ward 8 that have been establishing
16 themselves, doing work in the community,
17 gathering young people, bringing them out of
18 their homes, helping families.

19 Oh, and I also forgot to mention, I am
20 a youth development specialist. I work directly
21 with youth and families.

22 And one of the things that we have

1 always tried to do is unify and bring families
2 together. And part of doing that is allowing us
3 to have that creative economy, allowing us to do
4 the things that we are professionally -- we have
5 been doing for years.

6 I've been a musician for years. We
7 have artists that have been doing this for years.
8 And the problem is, a lot of times when we come
9 to the table, we're not respected. We're not
10 respected as young men because they're still
11 looking at us because they might see the same way
12 we dress. We don't have the suit and tie on
13 every day.

14 But, at the end of the day, we are
15 still professionals. We still go into these
16 homes. We still help people and we've been
17 helping people for the last six years, I know,
18 directly, myself and Mr. Tendani have been
19 helping people for the last six years directly.

20 And we want to continue to do that,
21 but we want to be at the table and actually be
22 able to earn some funds, earn money, live like

1 every other professional that's doing things in
2 and out of this city every day.

3 They come and take the money from the
4 city, obviously, and then go back to their homes
5 in VA and celebrate with their families, which is
6 cool. But, at the end of the day, we want to
7 have the opportunities to be able to develop
8 ourselves as artists, develop young people as
9 artists and have them have opportunities so they
10 can now develop businesses.

11 And it's all a -- it's a cycle. Okay?
12 So, if we continue to build and then continue to
13 put that -- or instill that business mind frame
14 in them, they pass it down to their children.

15 And it's a process that we all have to
16 go through, but we have to be respected first.
17 We have to be respected and we have to -- and you
18 all understand that. We are all here to help our
19 community or some of us are here to help the
20 communities, because I ain't going to say
21 everybody in this room is and let's keep it one
22 hundred.

1 But, let's also understand that the
2 people that are in here that's really doing what
3 we have to do, just please respect us when we
4 come to the table, that's all I ask.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. ALSTON: Good afternoon. My name
7 is Jamal Alston, father, son, educator, student,
8 entrepreneur, urban farmer. I can go on about
9 myself, but, it's not about me right now.

10 This summer I brought about 20 youth
11 -- I'm also a part of the Ward 8 Arts Council.
12 This summer I brought about 20 youth to the
13 Matthew Henson Center and we developed a mural.

14 Now, I don't know how many of you all
15 know how many gifted young black men that's out
16 there. Let's not get emotional about that.

17 All right, but the skills that they
18 have, they have skills, it's just the disconnect
19 is between how they -- the perception of how they
20 talk, how they dress and the professionalism, the
21 world of professionalism, there's a disconnect
22 there.

1 So, what we do is we combine that
2 connection. We don't care how they talk. We
3 don't care how they dress. We care about the
4 creative mind and their creative energy. We
5 capture that force.

6 And if you understand what's going on
7 with the universe, you understand the energy
8 right now. So, that's what we're capturing. So,
9 if you don't understand what's going on with the
10 universe, you're not going to capture the wave
11 that's going on. So, if you don't capture the
12 wave, that's okay, too.

13 So, we went to the Center. These
14 guys, these 20 youth, put together a mural and I
15 should have brought it today. As a matter of
16 fact, it's in the car, I should bring it.

17 But they put together a mural and they
18 showed how they can come together, they can
19 develop an idea. They can put -- they can share
20 ideas. They can put ideas on paper.

21 So, they turned something from thought
22 to reality, just like we're doing right here with

1 this project. We're taking something from
2 another universe or another dimension and we're
3 trying to turn it into something talented.

4 We have to include these youth. What
5 I want to see is I want to see self-sufficiency
6 programs in -- where ever in this circle, in the
7 red circle, somewhere in there and that's where
8 the Ward 8 Council comes in. The Ward 8 Council
9 has to be on the premises. We have to be here.

10 We are here for the youth. Y'all can
11 be here for everything else, but we'll be here
12 for the youth. We're going to develop the youth
13 in Ward 8 and we will show y'all what the youth
14 can do.

15 Y'all can do the other businesses and
16 the clothes and the dishes and all that other
17 stuff, but what's really needed here is self-
18 sufficiency programs for the youth.

19 We have to teach the youth how to
20 farm. We have to teach them how to eat, to live.
21 Using some of this land for urban farming would
22 be ideal. We can teach them how to eat, how to

1 live.

2 We say that they're killing themselves
3 out there, well then, let's teach them how to
4 live. If we care. If we care about the money,
5 then that'll show, too, and it always shows and
6 that's in every Ward. It's just it's time to
7 come and get this money.

8 So, it's okay, come get it. But while
9 you come get it, include the youth. And by
10 including the youth means bring Ward 9 Arts
11 Council here on the premises so that we can
12 develop the youth.

13 And I'll let Tendani get a leader of
14 how we'll be able to develop and create because
15 we're already using creative minds and creative
16 energies, you all just have to come and see what
17 we're doing.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. GAMBLE: Hello. I wasn't prepared
20 to speak, but I never miss an opportunity when it
21 presents itself.

22 My name is Carolinn Gamble. I run a

1 nonprofit organization for teenage girls here
2 east of the river.

3 I'm also helping out in this
4 organization here on this -- just starting up
5 called the Circle of Influence.

6 Now, I'm not going to take a lot of
7 your time, but I do want to say this. I was born
8 and raised here. As Charles just spoke, we went
9 to Mildred Greene together in the sixth grade, so
10 just seeing him was like something special.

11 But, I wanted to say, born and raised
12 here, I would love to see a part of our community
13 stay in this community in something as that is
14 what's about to happen.

15 I would like to see -- I'm a part of
16 the Ward 8 Arts and Culture, too. I would just
17 love to see a part of our community stay in our
18 community.

19 And I'm a fan of anything else coming,
20 I'm glad to see people now see what we've been
21 seeing for years. This is a beautiful place,
22 it's a beautiful place. I never wanted to leave,

1 I always wanted to stay here and my work is here
2 now.

3 This what I do. I work with the youth
4 here and I would love to see some of this given
5 back to the youth. That's all I would like to
6 say.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. HOUSE: Hello. My name is Carla
9 House. I am a Ward 8 business owner, a Ward 8
10 resident. I'm also involved with the Ward 8 ACC.

11 I'm here today to just put on the
12 record that I could piggyback off of pretty much
13 everything that so many people have said as far
14 as being able to have an opportunity to have
15 local businesses have this opportunity to have a
16 space where they can sell their products, where
17 they can grow.

18 And I think that this project is
19 really -- could be very effective. But, I think
20 there are so many obstacles that could come along
21 the way. But I think that with everyone in the
22 room basically just getting the word out there

1 that we need to be involved in the planning and
2 getting involved in these meetings is very
3 important.

4 I'm very, very glad to have met
5 Tendani and so many people here. And just being
6 able to be in a room to voice my opinion and my
7 concerns is really good.

8 As a business owner, I am concerned
9 with some of the retail space. And I am located
10 on MLK. I make jewelry, the name of my business
11 is called Taylored Treasures.

12 And so, the type of jewelry that I
13 make, it is one of a kind, never to be
14 duplicated. And I want that to get out into the
15 world. And it's very hard to do that in a
16 community where you're not really -- how can I
17 explain this -- received, exactly.

18 And when I start seeing these plans,
19 I'm like, man, like someone said about being
20 pushed out, it just gives you that feeling like,
21 is this something that is going to be obsolete,
22 culture and art?

1 And I think that Ward 8, we hold so
2 much culture and art in this area and that that's
3 something that needs to be preserved.

4 So, as you start doing your planning,
5 as you start talking about all the things that
6 are going to be coming, I'm looking on this list
7 and I'm like, so much of this pertains to me,
8 like 250 new apartments.

9 I live in an apartment which is
10 relatively expensive where some people are paying
11 \$50.00 and I'm paying close to \$2,000.00 and
12 that's supposed to be reasonable here and it's
13 not. I can barely afford it.

14 And so, I'm also looking at like
15 community art and courtyard -- is it going to be
16 affected? Is it going to be something that our
17 community, the residents, is it something that's
18 going to be -- what's the word, I can't even
19 think right now.

20 But, basically, what I'm trying to say
21 is I could piggyback off of everything that a lot
22 of you have said. And I think that the main

1 thing is that we don't want our culture to get
2 lost in all of the wonderful projects that you
3 have here. I think that it's going to be a great
4 idea, but we don't want our culture to get lost.

5 And art is very important. And I
6 think that if we start with that and we start
7 with the youth and start from the bottom that is
8 something that it can be beneficial.

9 So, like I said, I just want to pretty
10 much piggyback and I wanted to get my information
11 on record that I am a part of Ward 8. I do want
12 to continue to grow here in Ward 8. And I hope
13 that just the betterment is something that is
14 going to be beneficial to people who are living
15 here now and people who plan to come.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name
18 is Fatima Williams. I'm an owner of Taste of
19 Chad International Cuisine.

20 First of all, I'm very scared of
21 public speaking, this is why I didn't want to
22 come, but I felt like I had something to say.

1 Outside of the developers, everybody
2 that have a dollar, raise your hand, just one
3 dollar.

4 If you put all those dollars together,
5 that is how your voice gets to be heard to be
6 able to develop anything you want in this
7 particular project.

8 In Africa, almost everybody is --
9 especially where I come from -- everybody is an
10 entrepreneur because that is just how we are.

11 We don't just depend on a particular
12 government because most of the governments are
13 corrupt. We don't, you know, look at who is
14 coming to build because people are always coming
15 to build and take advantage of.

16 We survive by putting together what we
17 have to help each other out. All these beautiful
18 people that just came up here and spoke who have
19 all these ideas, who want to educate, who want to
20 continue to give back to the community, if we
21 take our money, put it together, we can do this.

22 We can build art centers and

1 educational centers, write our own books, educate
2 our own children how to eat, how to live. This
3 is how we continue to form as a community moving
4 forward.

5 You can't ask people who have their
6 own agenda to help you. You have to help
7 yourself, help yourself as a community. And,
8 basically, you know, put your money in the pot
9 and you'll see what you get. You know, you'll
10 get the progress. You'll get everything you
11 want. And we have to do that.

12 We basically all have the same ideas,
13 have the same goals. Let's bring the community
14 together, work together. If anything, let's
15 create a sign in sheet now where we can all trade
16 information, everyone that's in this room, and
17 then continue to communicate to see how we can
18 help each other out, develop the dialogue and
19 move forward.

20 That's all.

21 MR. JUNE: Good morning. My name is
22 Carl June. I am a Ward 8 business owner. I own

1 a concrete company here in Ward 8.

2 I was very impressed with the lady
3 that preceded me. She talked about in Africa,
4 being an independent contractor.

5 I started out as an independent
6 contractor in Alabama picking cotton. And I used
7 to hold this discussion with Marion Barry about
8 who could pick the most cotton. But, we truly
9 were independent contractors.

10 So, years later, I came to Howard
11 University. I graduated as a civil engineer. I
12 became a professional civil engineer, that is
13 that I have the right to sign and stamp drawings
14 that says that they're structurally safe.

15 But, anyway, I started in business --
16 I lived in the Windgate House in 1968 after I got
17 out of the Service and I married a girl at 1010
18 Mississippi Avenue. And we stayed in the
19 District about seven years and we moved out to
20 Maryland.

21 But I continue to own and operate
22 businesses in the District of Columbia. One of

1 my first was Jones and Artist and we hired, at
2 our peak, about 1,600 employees in several
3 businesses.

4 And for probably last 25 or 30 years,
5 I hauled the sludge out of Blue Plains.

6 And I bought an asphalt plant out in
7 Maryland and I sold it a few years ago after my
8 wife got sick and I got sick. And she ultimately
9 passed a few years ago.

10 But I got bored, tired of being at
11 home and decided to open up a concrete plant here
12 in Ward 8 and I moved back into Ward 8 as a
13 businessman.

14 Now, I live in Ward 7 and I just
15 yesterday closed on a condo in Ward 3. So, I'm
16 officially a resident of Ward 7 and soon to be a
17 resident of Ward 3.

18 But anyway, what I wanted to say, I
19 totally support this project. Right now, we have
20 hired about 23 truck drivers, 18 of them live in
21 the District and their average salary is
22 \$80,000.00 a year.

1 So, I'd like to expand the business.
2 This project gives me an opportunity to do so. I
3 spoke with some of the owners of the project and
4 they said they were committed to see that I would
5 do the concrete work on this project.

6 And, for that reason, I thought it was
7 necessary for me to come up here and tell my
8 story and let you -- express my support for this
9 project.

10 Thank you very kindly.

11 MS. BUELL: Thank you.

12 Okay, well, thank you everybody for
13 your comments.

14 And we can just go through the last
15 few slides.

16 Thank you, everybody. It is so
17 important for you to come here to voice your
18 opinions, your concerns, your thoughts, your
19 hopes, your wishes, your desires. This is a very
20 important first step and it's very important that
21 you came here today because we are at the
22 beginning of this journey and we will make sure

1 that your comments, as best we can, are
2 incorporated in our plans going forward.

3 So, with that being said, just to run
4 through the next steps so everybody is clear
5 about how we plan to proceed.

6 Our next meeting will focus on the
7 disposition process and the disposition plan.
8 So, not only has Redbrick started to develop
9 their own plans, I am sure that they will be
10 taking back the comments that they've heard
11 today, revising those plans and we plan to come
12 back out on September 28th for an evening meeting
13 to reveal those disposition plans in greater
14 detail, answer questions, talk about affordable
15 housing, talk about home ownership opportunities,
16 talk about retail opportunities, talk about
17 creative economy, innovation uses, really provide
18 some more meat on the bones.

19 We will also be developing a schedule
20 to talk about the Events DC facility.

21 I just want to emphasize that this
22 Event DC facility really is bigger than

1 basketball and I know that that term has been
2 thrown around a lot, but it is.

3 The Events DC has been looking for a
4 5,000 seat arena for some time. And we lucked up
5 and they took St. Elizabeth's East seriously.
6 Five thousand seat arenas are not plentiful in
7 the District of Columbia. There are 3,700 seat
8 arenas, there are 1,200 seat arenas, so Event DC
9 really does feel that this is a niche market.

10 This is an opportunity for us to have
11 a range of programs ranging from family programs
12 like Sesame Street to small concerts. This will
13 be a real asset.

14 And so, Events DC, while they are new
15 to Ward 8, they are dedicated to Ward 8. They
16 have Ward 8 residents on their Board who are
17 already starting to ask some great questions.

18 And so, we will be rolling out with an
19 outreach and community update schedule, but also
20 starting the conversation.

21 For those who are not familiar with
22 Events DC, they have been a phenomenal partner

1 for us. They actually manage Rockland City for
2 us. Their staff is very professional. They know
3 how to manage 7,000 people, get everybody in
4 safely, have some fun and get them home safely.
5 So, we are very excited that they are coming.

6 The Wizards, for their training
7 facility and the Mystics will be an anchor
8 tenant. So, they will be paying rent, but also,
9 they have committed to investing \$10 million back
10 into the community.

11 And so, for us, this means that we
12 will have a big partner both in the St.
13 Elizabeth's East redevelopment but also the
14 development of Ward 8 generally.

15 And so, not only being able to have
16 the Wizards name and the Mystics name associated
17 with our 5,000 seat arena, but also having the
18 commitment to reinvest in the community is huge.

19 Just to identify the location, the
20 plan is similar to when you go to the baseball
21 stadium and you come up in that trail and you see
22 the baseball stadium, you'll come off the

1 Congress Heights Metro and you will see our
2 Events DC arena.

3 We are planning to make sure that the
4 site creates that sense of place. We have,
5 clearly, for our landscape architect who is in
6 the room, this is a very early design. This is
7 not what it will look like, but this gives a
8 general idea of how far away from the Metro we
9 plan for the Events DC facility to be.

10 But also, as you can see, at the
11 bottom right hand corner, the first phase of the
12 development mixed use will -- that Redbrick is
13 developing, this will allow us to leverage the
14 retail that is there.

15 And for retail to be successful, we
16 have to have foot traffic. And so, we anticipate
17 that the Events DC arena will attract close to
18 350,000 people annually. And this will give us a
19 real opportunity to make sure that that retail
20 survives.

21 To date, between Gateway DC and
22 R.I.S.E., we've had 80,000 visitors. So, we

1 already know that there is a market in
2 Washington, D.C. for venues like St. Elizabeth's,
3 like Gateway DC and R.I.S.E. Half the battle is
4 just getting people here.

5 So, once they come here, they'll come
6 back. They're committed once they get over
7 whatever misnomer they have about Ward 8.

8 We find that it is a very popular
9 venue and we anticipate the same amount of
10 excitement around the Events DC venue.

11 We do have handouts that talk about
12 the deal terms for those who are interested in
13 what the District's commitment is for the \$23
14 million. The District has also committed to
15 redeveloping the infrastructure. We have our
16 partners with the Department of General Services
17 here who will be building out our infrastructure.

18 And then there are a number of
19 commitments by Events DC who will oversee the
20 construction of the facility.

21 Just to talk briefly about the time
22 line because that's always the question. We

1 actually have folks who are showing up now ready
2 to go into their facility.

3 The facility will not break ground
4 until next summer. That's when construction will
5 begin which means that in the spring, we will be
6 revealing designs for the facility. I am sure
7 there will be lots of questions.

8 We have already put in a plug for the
9 Arts and Culture community. So, your comments
10 have been heard way before today. And we
11 anticipate that we will continue to have the
12 discussion about how making sure -- how we make
13 sure that the Arts and Culture Committee really
14 does make this a great place.

15 And then, we anticipate that the
16 construction will be complete by fall of 2018.
17 And we will all be there to enjoy a great shows.

18 I also just briefly want to touch on
19 a pathway and then have Louis Hicks from the
20 Humanities Council come up and talk about some
21 exciting events that we have coming up.

22 And I don't know if Rodney Bunn has

1 already left, but, as you can see, we have some
2 construction going on. We are building a pathway
3 for those who have been here at events in the
4 evening, you know that it is dark and it is scary
5 walking back to the Metro. So we have lighting
6 on the pathway which is huge for us in the
7 evening. So we have improved our lighting.

8 Ralph Cunningham, actually his firm
9 helped design it. It is a pleasant pathway. It
10 will be well landscaped. And so, we will be
11 opening that pathway, our team is working
12 overtime to get it done for Art All Night and the
13 Humanities Arts and Technology Festival.

14 So, Art All Night, if we go to the
15 next slide, is scheduled for September 26th. It
16 starts at 7:00 p.m. and it ends at 3:00 a.m. We
17 hope to see everybody back because it is a great
18 event.

19 We hosted Art All Night last year, it
20 was wildly successful. We were so impressed. We
21 loved having Art All Night here.

22 And this year, we are also opening up

1 R.I.S.E. for our Humanities Art and Technology
2 Festival.

3 So, we will have Louis Hicks give just
4 some brief remarks about the festival.

5 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Catherine.

6 I wanted everybody to make sure that
7 you pick up a copy of our flyer which will be
8 here in this building. We will program this
9 building to include a number of things.

10 We'll open up with a presentation
11 about humanities. Basically, we will have a
12 think and drink where we have a Humanatini where
13 lots of areas we'll talk about issues confronting
14 people today. We'll also have Muslims doing a
15 poetry slant.

16 Our theme for the event is "Listen to
17 the City." So, in a variety of ways, we'll have
18 a team talking to people in South Africa. They
19 traveled there this summer. We had global kids
20 down in the basement which will be doing an
21 evening, basically, programming for kids.

22 We'll have also Strayhorn Jazz doing

1 a Strayhorn Jazz discussion, demonstration
2 performance as well as hand dancing.

3 We'll also have Made in the DMV doing
4 scratching as well as DJing.

5 We'll also have a design showcase in
6 the basement where we'll also have you, whether
7 or not you have an efficiency or a mansion,
8 talking about things of how you use design
9 techniques.

10 We'll also use a variety of ways to
11 program the space. We'll top it off in the late
12 evening with a silent disco where you'll get to
13 dance with individual headphones and dance within
14 the music as well as program in the space, we'll
15 have DJs programming this space at the end of the
16 evening.

17 But, if you go to our website,
18 wdchumanities.org, you'll be able to pull up a
19 full schedule that starts at 7:00 and goes until
20 3:00 a.m. in the morning.

21 MS. BUELL: Thank you.

22 I hope to see each and every person in

1 this room at the Humanities Festival as well as
2 Art All Night because it really is a treat.

3 And you can also see how people relate
4 and enjoy this space.

5 So, just to wrap up, our next
6 community meeting, you will hear from Redbrick &
7 Gragg Cardona. They are not the silent type so
8 they will be here answering lots of questions and
9 presenting their development plan. That is going
10 to be on September 28th.

11 We also plan to attend every ANC
12 meeting over the course of the next month to make
13 sure that we are catching people.

14 If you have any other requests for
15 updates over the course of the next month or two
16 to start off conversation to make sure as we're
17 developing our redevelopment plans, your comments
18 are heard. We urge you to please reach out to
19 either the project team or our development
20 partner and make sure that your comments are
21 included and reflected.

22 I will say just as a closing note, we

1 are very serious about including the community's
2 plans, even for R.I.S.E., you will notice that
3 the name of the building, Relate, Innovate,
4 Stimulate, Elevate, was thought of by the
5 community, the uses that we have here, the
6 reflection area.

7 So, there are ways that we make sure
8 that the community's input is reflected and we
9 anticipate as we grow and have bigger and better
10 projects that the community will always be at the
11 table.

12 So, we sincerely thank you for coming
13 out today and we look forward to seeing you at
14 our follow up meetings.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 was concluded at 11:56 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: St. Elizabeth's East Phase 1
Redevelopment Public Meeting

Before: DC DMPED

Date: 09-19-15

Place: Washington, DC

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Court Reporter

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