

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING – DEC 1, 2020

TESTIMONY PA 2018-IV-MV5 AND PA 2018-IV-T1 NORTH GATEWAY CBC --TRANSPORTATION STUDY AND FAR ADJUSTMENT

Good evening Mr. Chairman and Supervisors, my name is Katherine Ward, and I am here representing the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA). I live on Gladstone Place in the Mount Vernon District.

First and foremost, the MVCCA wants to thank the FCDOT and Planning staffs for bringing these two plan amendments before you for approval. The MVCCA membership has been waiting a long time for them to become a reality.

It all began in 2009 when we proposed these actions as part of the comprehensive plan amendment process. We have been pushing for them ever since, with communications to staff and our Supervisor in 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2017, 2018 of course most recently in the 2020 resolution you have in your packet.

The approval of these two plan amendments will be transformative for not only the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts, but the whole of the county. The change in the FAR for the North Gateway CBC supports the Embark design concepts and opens a real opportunity for economic development at the entrance to the County from the City of Alexandria and Maryland. The proximity to the Huntington Metro creates even more value and will certainly entice developers to seek this site out.

The hybrid+ road option will eliminate an unsightly grade separated interchange from marring the views of our local businesses and the homes and town home communities adjacent to Ft Hunt Rd. Removal of that interchange will also remove any distracting auto noise and lights shining into the windows and yards of the Belle Haven on the Green community. And it will ensure the North Gateway CBC parcels of land remain in tact and more viable for redevelopment. It will also make traffic flow in and around Ft Hunt Rd and Rt 1 smoother for all who use those streets.

We again thank the staff for their hard and persistent work to make these plan amendments a reality and we encourage you to unanimously approve them.

Thank you for your time I'm happy to answer any questions.