June 14, 2019

Ms. Marnique Heath
Chair, Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650 Washington, DC 20024

Re: 429 5th St. NE (HPA 19-214)

Dear Ms. Heath:

On June 12, 2019, at a duly noticed and regularly scheduled monthly meeting, with a quorum of six out of six commissioners and the public present, this case came before ANC 6C. (We reviewed drawings dated June 4, 2019.) The commissioners voted 5-1 to oppose the application, and to authorize Commissioner Jay Adelstein (6C03) to present testimony, with Commissioner Joel Kelty (6C05) as a backup witness if needed.

ANC 6C believes that this concept application, as revised, is incompatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District and DC historic preservation law for several reasons. First, the use of a standing-seam metal roof on the primary elevation of a Capitol Hill rowhouse is, as far as we are aware, unprecedented. Likewise, we do not believe that stucco is an appropriate material for the side or rear elevations, and especially not on the primary elevation of the proposed rooftop addition. (The drawings we reviewed depicted brick on the west façade, but we understand that HPO staff may instead recommend stucco, which we oppose.)

ANC 6C also objects to the mis-alignment of the proposed third-story windows on the rooftop addition with the windows on the existing historic structure, as well as to the new windows’ awkward and historically incompatible proportions.

Numerous local residents spoke in opposition to this project at our committee and ANC meetings. Of the 27 residents on the block, 26 opposed the application. We fully share their concerns and their opposition.

Thank you for giving great weight to the views of ANC 6C.

On behalf of ANC 6C,

Karen Wirt, ANC 6C chair