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June 20, 2023

Testimony 22-0323 – Conditional Use Parking Lot – 3618 and 3620 Elm Avenue SUPPORT

Dear Chair Middleton and Distinguished Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for City Council Bill 22-0323 Conditional Use Parking Lot -3618 and 3620 Elm Avenue.

The owner of the Wine Source, a very reputable business in the heart of Hampden, has requested these two properties have a conditional use for parking. They are currently zoned R-6. The spaces will be a surface parking lot for the multitude of customers that come to enjoy the products and hospitality at The Wine Source. This is a very popular spot, and Hampden has parking pressure in the entire neighborhood.

Hampden has become a very popular business area, and unlike several of our business areas in Fells Point and Federal Hill, there is no concentrated affordable parking facility in the area. Therefore there is considerable parking pressure in the neighborhood. The number one complaint of residents in the area is parking.

While it is unfortunate to have to demolish two homes for parking, these homes are in bad condition – in fact condemned – and would take significant resources to rehabilitate into single or multi-family homes. I look forward to continuing to work on our multiple initiatives to provide housing elsewhere in the neighborhood and in several parts of my district that need it most.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your support.

Respectfully Submitted:

Odette Ramos Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 14