Bullet points for letter to HPRB

* **Introduction:** I [we] oppose the proposed Chevy Chase Historic District.
* I [we] live
  + Inside the proposed district, or
  + Just outside the proposed district, or
  + Outside the proposed district but within the Chevy Chase DC neighborhood, or
  + Outside the proposed district but in Washington DC.
* I [we] have lived in [our current residence] or [Chevy Chase DC] for xx years.
* Chevy Chase DC is a wonderful neighborhood, but not every great neighborhood is a historic district.
* **Historic significance:** Chevy Chase DC is not the product of any distinctive or unique historical event or social movement that requires it to be preserved as of some date or period in the past.
  + There are already several “streetcar suburbs” recognized as historic districts in Washington, and virtually every neighborhood in DC could be so characterized.
  + Most neighborhoods in Washington outside downtown are similar “streetcar suburbs” that developed along transportation routes as the city grew
* **Architectural style:** The charm of the neighborhood lies not in a particular style that warrants preservation, but from organic growth and development as the community has changed and adapted in response to the needs and desires of residents.
  + That process has continued to this day and should be allowed to continue into the future.
  + Recognizing a historic district in Chevy Chase DC would limit the ability of current and future residents to make changes to their own homes, adapt to new needs and conditions, and shape the community as a whole.
* The proposed historic district randomly groups widely varying areas and has no coherent overall theme.
  + The proposed district arbitrarily combines streets, blocks, and houses that vary widely in style, density, and land use.
  + Half or more of the commercial district along Connecticut Avenue at the core of the historic district consists of post-1950s buildings that have little in common with the side streets.
  + The proposed historic district arbitrary groups areas east and west of Connecticut Avenue that have very different land use patterns and styles.
* **Usurpation of other agencies’ functions:** The application improperly attempts to use the rubric of historic preservation to accomplish back-door down-zoning and subvert and obstruct land-use decision made by the responsible city agencies.
* **Perpetuating exclusionary history:** The application acknowledges that the original developers created “a new community that was designed to be insulated from the cultural and economic diversity of the city.” Recognizing a historic district would perpetuate this unfortunate exclusionary design.