[INSERT DATE HERE]

Ms. Marnique Heath, Chair

Historic Preservation Review Board

1100 4th Street, SW, Suite 650 East

Washington, DC 20024

historic.preservation@dc.gov

Dear Chair Heath and Members of the Board,

 [I] [We] oppose the proposed Chevy Chase DC Historic District and live [inside the proposed district] [just outside the boundary of the proposed district] [outside the boundary of the proposed district but in the neighborhood] [outside the boundary of the proposed district but in Wsahington DC]. [I] [We] have lived [in our current residence] [Chevy Chase DC] for [x] years.

Chevy Chase DC is a wonderful place to live, but it is not the product of any distinctive or unique historical event or social movement. Chevy Chase does not have a particular architectural style or period that requires preservation. Instead, it has been the result of a process, continuing to this day, of organic adaptation and change as the needs and desires of those who live here have changed. That process should be allowed to continue.

As the application for a historic district recognizes, the neighborhood does have a sad history of exclusion. Chevy Chase’s founders ensured that it would be exclusively to the well-to-do. These included formal covenants requiring a minimum house cost and excluding apartment buildings that could have housed those with less wealth. They also included other means by which Black people in particular were excluded, including racial covenants in some parts of the community and other more informal exclusionary techniques. We continue to live with the fruits of that exclusionary history. Recognizing a historic district here would inappropriately commemorate it. Even worse, by making change more difficult and costly, it would preserve current land use patterns (especially along Connecticut Avenue) that would otherwise offer a path to greater inclusion. A historic district would thereby perpetuate exclusivity and limit the inclusivity and diversity that most of today’s residents want and that official city policy encourages.

Please allow Chevy Chase to continue to grow and become more inclusive, and reject the application to designate the neighborhood as a historic district.

 Sincerely,

 [INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

 [INSERT YOUR STREET ADDRESS]