



October 13, 2016

Attn: Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Department of City Planning  
200 Ross St., Fourth Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Re: 5228-30 Duncan Way, 5229-31 Poe Way, 5231 Lotus Way, 5233 Duncan Way**

Dear Esteemed Members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

On behalf of Lawrenceville United, we write today in support of the zoning variances for Lawrenceville Corporation's Community Land Trust homes at 5228-30 Duncan Way, 5229-31 Poe Way, 5231 Lotus Way, and 5233 Duncan Way.

Lawrenceville United's (LU) mission is to improve and protect the quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents. LU and Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) have created a community process that provides a forum where proposed development projects can be discussed, vetted, and measured against community plans and priorities. This process enables the local community organizations to identify priority issues that will help guide conversations with the developer through the planning and construction processes.

LU convened an open and public community meeting on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> with Lawrenceville Corporation and Rothschild Doyno Collaborative. We thank Lawrenceville Corporation and Rothschild Doyno Collaborative for participating in the community process.

As the resident advocacy group for Lawrenceville, LU's community engagement, research, and planning has shown that preserving affordability is one of the top priorities for our neighborhood, where we've seen dramatic increases in home sale and rental prices over a brief time. These factors have caused high amounts of displacement and made it increasingly difficult for working families to remain in the neighborhood. As such, we are very excited to see LC address this need with the Community Land Trust. LU is committed to supporting their efforts however we can to ensure its success.

LC has held at least three additional open and public community meetings to get input from Lawrenceville residents on the planning and design of these homes, while also including Lawrenceville residents on the steering committee for the Community Land Trust. LC has done their due diligence, and we feel the plans for these sites are reflective of the priorities of residents, as well as the existing and historic context of the neighborhood. As such, LU supports the variances requested by LC for these properties. We thank LC for taking on this important work. LC's Community Land Trust is an important part of preserving affordability in Lawrenceville and protecting quality of life for all. However, we also recognize that LC can't



address this need alone, and we strongly recommend the City of Pittsburgh to implement the recommendations of the Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force with urgency.

We thank the Zoning Board for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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