



PRESERVATION  
ESTD SOCIETY 1920  
of CHARLESTON

COASTAL  
CONSERVATION  
LEAGUE

February 1, 2023

Honorable Mayor John Tecklenburg  
City of Charleston  
80 Broad Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

VIA Email

**Re: Creating a Legacy at Union Pier**

Dear Mayor Tecklenburg:

We appreciated the time you and your staff shared last Friday to meet with us and listen to our collective vision for guiding the anticipated rezoning of Union Pier Terminal. Our organizations are united in our desire for City Council to agree on a strong vision for this new neighborhood **prior to**, and not concurrent with, the rezoning request.

While we respect the talents of the design team assembled by SC Ports, the team's sketch plan submittal is driven towards maximizing property value at the expense of our community values. The intensity of the proposed program, in particular, should be determined by an entity without a vested financial interest in its sales price. Objective review is critical given the stakes of building a new, high intensity development on reclaimed marshlands, especially because the proposed plan largely omits space for a functional living shoreline, a resilience measure recommended by the Dutch Dialogues. In this spirit, we urge you to honor the obligation for Planned Unit Development to incorporate at least 20% open space for the public realm in the buildable area.

To be clear, we are excited by the opportunity to re-knit our downtown by creating a vibrant new neighborhood and opening a waterfront that has long been off limits to the public. But it is critical that important civic values be considered and set as benchmarks for a rezoning plan prior to City approval.

We are looking for your leadership to work directly with SC Ports to ensure that this plan creates the type of high-quality urbanism and public realm that Charleston is accustomed to. The only way to achieve that at this juncture is to provide the time, the planning analysis and meaningful community input that a project of this scale and significance requires. A city of our caliber and reputation deserves excellence and a thorough consideration of the opportunities afforded by this process.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Turner  
President & CEO  
Preservation Society  
of Charleston

Winslow Hastie  
President & CEO  
Historic Charleston  
Foundation

Faith Rivers James  
Executive Director  
Coastal Conservation  
League