

**The Willison Condominium
1425 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005**

Application Number 18648

Board of Zoning Adjustment:

The Helix hotel plans to reinvent itself into a hotel that caters to business conferences and large social events. As a neighbor of the Helix, the Board of the Willison does not support this change and believes that it will adversely alter the characteristics of our neighborhood and of Rhode Island Avenue.

Several aspects of the proposed renovation of the Helix concern us. The addition of a conference room that accommodates up to 150 additional guests will significantly increase the noise and congestion as the Helix's guests come and go, particularly on nights and weekends. The Helix staff has not been successful in keeping noise and congestion to an acceptable level when small numbers of guests congregate outside the hotel and around the entrance. There is every reason to believe that each time the Helix hosts an event with scores of people, the neighborhood will be subjected to loud noise and excessive street congestion.

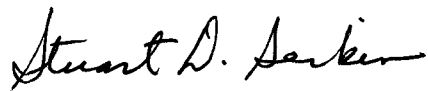
Traffic and congestion will be even further exacerbated by the Helix's plan to bring its driveway closer to the sidewalk. Cars dropping off guests and picking them up will block the sidewalk and cause backups on Rhode Island Avenue, to say nothing of the increased noise of 150 people milling around the sidewalk as events end and guests are waiting for transportation.

Finally, the expansion of the kitchen and service areas of the hotel will invite greater non-guest patronage. An increase in the number of non-guests and delivery personnel coming and going will only add to the congestion and disruption the neighborhood already experiences.

The expansion of the bar, restaurant and outdoor patio; the addition of event space for 150 people; and the shortening of the driveway will further disrupt the peace, order and quiet of the neighborhood.

The Board of the Willison is opposed to the variance that would allow the proposed expansion of the Helix hotel.

Sincerely,



Stuart D. Serkin, Vice President
For the Board of the Willison Condominium

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18648
EXHIBIT NO. 27

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