

**BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 211-S
Washington, DC 20001**

**Testimony of Arden Staroba
Neighbor
June 3, 2014**

Case No. 18738 – 4527 MacArthur Boulevard, NW

Chairman Jordan and members of the Board,

My name is Arden Staroba. My Husband and I live at 4503 MacArthur, a few doors down from Gerald Bemis' house.

Our house was built by the Serrin family in 1898. At that time, Hardy Park was the Serrin's farm and our house was their farm house. They built the four houses around us for their children.

We bought our house in 1968 and have lived there for 46 years. In that time we have completely remodeled – new walls, floors, windows, kitchen, added bathrooms and a new year-round garden room which looks out over a back garden with flowers, a fish pond and a waterfall. And – across a narrow alley – a view of Hardy Park. We can sit in our garden and watch the kids play soccer.

The other four houses around us, encouraged by our work, have done complete remodeling jobs. The latest is at 4509 MacArthur. The family has a new baby and even dug out the basement to give it enough height so they could house their nanny.

Ours has been a group of five single family homes for over 100 years. We have Hardy Park for our kids to play in. Our daughter went to Georgetown Day School across the street from our house.

But now, developers are coming in. They don't give a hoot about our neighborhood. They just want to make money. They are creating a domino effect, starting with 4529 MacArthur at the corner of MacArthur and Q.

The BZA approved of the developer of 4529 MacArthur tearing down the single family house and building a **four flat** apartment building. The BZA approved in spite of the fact that we had a petition signed by 120 neighbors who were against the developer's plans.

Now, Mr. Kashani, the developer of 4527, wants to tear down the house next to 4529 and make a **five flat** apartment building on a one house lot.

If this domino effect continues, it is going to ruin our neighborhood and negate our history.

If you allow Mr. Kashani his **five flat** apartment building, Mr. Bemis' house will look like a rowboat next to a battleship.

Respectfully,

Arden Staroba