

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

To: Lloyd Jordan , Chairman of
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment

From: Richard Rymland and Catherine Wyler
Residents: 397 Watson Place NW
Washington DC 2006

Re: **Opposition** to Relief Exception to case Numbers
18765 and 18784 Pertaining to 399 and 3915 Fulton
Avenue NW Washington DC

The exterior design, as presented is totally incompatible with the mood of the neighborhood, and as a result is an intrusion on the well established character of the homes that contribute to the traditional character of the surroundings.

The developer refers to the façade as “ contemporary” but in fact the design as presented harkens back to the late 1950’s and smacks of commercial innovation popular at that time for commercial buildings such as offices and flexible space warehouses. There is no historical context in the design to residential utilization.

We would prefer a traditional “colonial revival” structure and believe it would also facilitate the sale of the properties. However, if a modern design is allowed we are compelled to only endorse a building of design beauty and integrity that makes a statement of handsomeness, and with pride enters the landscape with an undeniable compatibility of the old and the new. This building misses the mark totally. From a personal note I lived in a building similar to this as a BOQ on Sandia Base in New Mexico at the end of the Korean War. What is presented here and what was built to house Army officers in the 1950’s are “soul mates.”

I trust that the judgment of the Zoning Board will help prevent a travesty of design to be placed forever as an eyesore in this established aesthetic of Fulton Street. Please, make a statement ; reject an exterior design with lack of skill and imagination that will create blight and an eyesore.

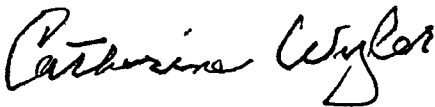
Underlying all of the laws and regulations is a concern for improving the lives of the citizens of the District of Columbia. This is your opportunity to improve the quality of life and compel a rethinking of a terrible erroneous design error that has the potential of permanence that will only, retrospectively, be attributed to bad judgment.

If The Board is unable to compel a redesign, then we urge you to refuse the relief and save Fulton Street from being an embarrassment to the city.

"Design creates culture. Culture shapes values. Values determine the future."

Robert L. Peters

Thank you for your consideration and service to the city we love.



Catherine Wyler



Richard Rymland