

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

BZA Application 19077

Appeal of the Massachusetts Avenue Heights Citizens Association
from Building Permit 1404954 for construction at 2505 Wisconsin Ave, NW

Hearing Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Testimony of UNITE HERE Local 25

901 K St NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20001

My name is John Boardman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of UNITE HERE Local 25. We are an organization of over 6,500 hotel workers in the D.C. metropolitan area, working to create middle class jobs within the hotel industry in the District of Columbia.

We are writing to express our strong support of MAHCA and ANC 3C's appeal. We do not believe that building permits should be arbitrarily granted in clear contradiction to the zoning regulations of the District, as occurred in this case, and we urge the BZA to exercise its authority to maintain the integrity of the laws of the District by granting the neighbors' appeal.

As experts in the hotel industry, it is our view that a new rooftop bar at the Savoy Hotel would indisputably represent an expansion of commercial adjunct space for the hotel.

We understand that currently the roof is not used as function space, exhibit space, or as commercial adjunct space. Renovating the roof so that guests can have access and engage in commercial use including purchasing and consuming alcoholic beverages is thus an expansion of the hotel's commercial space. Therefore, Building Permit #1404954 specifies a commercial use where there previously was none, without any corresponding reduction of commercial space elsewhere within the hotel.

We believe that maintaining the integrity of the zoning regulations is critical for promoting vibrant and healthy neighborhoods in the District of Columbia, and therefore we urge the Board to grant the neighbors' appeal in this case.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our testimony.



John. A. Boardman
Executive Secretary-Treasurer