628 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

October 13, 2003

Case No. 03-30

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Honorable Carol J. Mitten, Chair
D.C. Zoning Commission
D.C. Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210, South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioner Mitten:

As an owner and resident of Capitol Park IV Condominium in Southwest D.C., I am concerned about the proposed zone change and development of **Square 643** at Delaware Avenue and H Street, SW. The plan calls for razing a vacant church and constructing a nine-story, luxury apartment building. The existing building deserves more thought before being replaced by the first suggestion offered.

The fact that the congregation sold the church to the developer does not mean the building is without historical value. Built in 1875, it is a charming example of Victorian architecture in a neighborhood where virtually all vestiges of that era have succumbed to the bulldozer. Why not recycle it for community use?

Rather than demolish the church and erect a concrete and glass tower, the owner might remove the additions and outbuildings, restore the exterior and windows, and recycle the church as a community office building. On the rest of the property, he could build townhouses or low-rise apartments in a modern Victorian style to complement the church and nearby homes.

The developer has shown interest in obtaining community support for this project. Unfortunately, this is not always easy. At a recent meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, he was allotted time for his presentation but discussion was cut off quickly to allow the next presenter more time. When he sought input from the Capitol Park IV Condominium, our board chose to back his plan without informing the residents. Please do not change the zoning on this parcel until the community has had a chance to explore alternative ideas.

Sincerely,

Mary Jamieson

Mary Jamieson
202-488-7881
Skyrose@erols.com

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-30
Exhibit 16

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-30
EXHIBIT NO.16

To: Hon. Carol J. Mitten, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St. NW Ste. 210, S.
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fax: 202-727-6072

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From: Mary Jamieson
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pages: 2 incl. cover sheet