2003 DEC -2 AM 10:21
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

Friday, November 28, 2003

D.C. Office of Zoning
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Benjamin J. Jackson, who is currently one of the many musicians that renders service to the Friendship Baptist Church. I joined Friendship Baptist in 1953 at a revival service where the late Rev. Brooks, from Peoples Union Baptist Church, was the guest revivalist. As you see Friendship Baptist Church has strong roots in my becoming a Christian.

I preface my statement by saying what is past is prologue, denoting that history is impossible to be replaced. I am reflecting in a statement provided in an anniversary book titled, 'Centennial Anniversary of Friendship Baptist Church, and Forty-eighth Anniversary of the then pastor Rev. B.H. Whiting, now deceased, by the chairman of the Anniversary, Rev.Dr. Lorenzo Ford. The statement proceeds as follows, "In 1956 when redevelopment was at its height and other churches were being removed from Southwest Washington, Rev. Whiting kept the church in constant prayer. At a meeting of redevelopment officials, Rev. Whiting was given an opportunity to speak concerning the fate of Friendship Baptist Church. The pastor's divine, spontaneous message centered on a community need for the school, the health center, and Friendship Baptist Church. The serious message was the turning point, and officials decided to include the church in the newly developed community. Despite the shifting population brought on by extensive demolition of homes, the church program continued to grow."

This statement is a predestined memorial perpetuated, considering that the church had remained in the community for over seventy-five years from the years of post slavery times, while amongst the many changes in the southwest area. What an opportunity to now place in the hallowed halls of the Southwest area of Washington, D.C., a tribute to those, like the late Pastor Rev. W. H. Montgomery, who have historically planted seeds of prosperity and given their lives for the development of it.

I strongly oppose (1) any demolition of the old church building of Friendship Baptist Church, located at 1st and H Street, S.W., for the development of a new high rise apartment dwelling, and (2)oppose the application in case number 03-30, submitted by Square 643 Associates in changing the height of buildings from 40 feet to 90 feet; but rather to suggest that the preservation of the current site be done with state and federal historical preservation funds, to keep before the present and future generations, the efforts of our forefathers overcoming tremendous odds, in fighting developers that definitely had aspirations of destroying history. My prayer today is as my heart reflects on the immortal words of Rev. Whiting, that the community keeps alive the minds of the school, the health center, and the Friendship Baptist Church. This can be done if we immortalized the reason why we are still here in southwest today, history.

Benjamin J. Jackson
1733 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002
(202) 396-5033

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-30
Exhibit 18

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-30
EXHIBIT NO.18

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 DEC -1 AM 9:09

Friday, November 28, 2003

D.C. Office of Zoning
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

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corrected

Benjamin J. Jackson
1733 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002
(202) 396-5033

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-30
Exhibit 18
FAX COPY

Phone: (202) 396-5033

[redacted]

# Fax

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **To:** | D.C. Office of Zoning<br>Zoning Commission 441 4th Street, N.W.<br>Suite 210 South<br>Washington, D. C. 20001 | **From:** | Benjamin J. Jackson<br>1733 L Street, N.E.<br>Washington, D.C. 20002 |
| **Fax:** | (202) 727-6072 | **Pages:** | 2(including cover page) |
| **Phone:** | | **Date:** | 11/28/2003 |
| **Re:** | Opposition for Building Height Increase | **CC:** | [Click here and type name] |

☑ **Urgent** ☑ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

- **Comments:** Opposition to Case #03-30 Hearing Scheduled for December 8, 2003

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 DEC -1 AM 9:09