J. Stephen Cleghorn, Ph.D.
58 G Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

VIA FAX and MAIL

D.C. Office of Zoning
Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW
Suite 210 South
Washington DC 20001

RE: Case number 03-30

Dear Commissioners:

Regarding case number 03-30, an application submitted by Square 643 Associates LLC for the Old Church property at Delaware and H, SW, I am an immediate neighbor of this property living in Capitol Park IV. I understand that you may discuss this project at your December 8 meeting and I am writing to insist that you hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning change.

The application asks the Zoning Commission to change the height limitation from the currently permitted 40 feet to 90 feet in order to build a high-rise apartment building. The developer would also have to demolish a century-old church that was incorporated and built by former slaves after the Civil War and stands as one of the last living reminders of the former Southwest community that was torn down and dispersed by the urban renewal development of the 1960s.

There are thus two issues to consider. The proposed 90-foot height of this development will adversely affect those of us who live closest to it. I also believe that not enough attention has been paid to the historic character of the former Friendship Baptist Church that would be torn down. For full consideration of either of these issues, I encourage the Commission to set this matter down for public hearing and to take the opportunity to hear from the immediate neighbors and from the former members of the church who would like to see it preserved.

The Board of my Capitol Park IV condominium association has indicated its endorsement of the proposed change, but in my opinion that endorsement came without sufficient due diligence in informing residents about the proposed development. I do not agree with the decision and tonight I will attend the annual meeting of the Capitol Park IV Board to express my view that our condominium association should reconsider whether we should endorse this change in zoning.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Cleghorn

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-30
Exhibit 25

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-30
EXHIBIT NO.25