COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

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SHARON AMBROSE
Councilmember-Ward 6

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February 23, 2005

Carol Mitten, Chair
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Zoning Commission Case No. 03-30
PUD at 734 1st Street, S.W.

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing to the Zoning Commission in support of the PUD application by Steve Tanner (Square 643 Associates) for a site at Delaware Avenue and H Street, S.W. Mr. Tanner has worked diligently to address community concerns about the long-vacant church on the site and secured historic landmark status for the church – Friendship Baptist Church. The highly respected architectural firm of Shalom Baranes Associates has done an outstanding job of preserving the church while adding two residential wings that enhance the historic site while providing needed housing.

At your "setdown" decision tomorrow night, I hope you will leave the applicant some flexibility regarding the nonprofit use proposed for the church itself. The nonprofit use makes possible a more open and at least semi-public use of the historic landmark space. Mr. Tanner should not be penalized for this. A conversion to residential units would privatize this space. The relatively small size of the nonprofit space ensures that traffic and activity generally will not be a problem to neighbors. Indeed, this moderate-sized but important project will enhance this corner of the neighborhood and bring needed activity.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ambrose

Sharon Ambrose
Council Member – Ward 6

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 03-30
EXHIBIT NO. 35

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