ANC 6D06

# AHMED ASSALAAM

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISIONER**

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Monday, June 20, 2005

Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

**RE: Case No, 03-30**

Good evening Chair and members of the Commission. Although by now I am quite sure you know who I am, for the record I state that my name is Ahmed Assalaam, a rightful subject of legislation of the District of Columbia native born, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 6D06, and a person who by race and ethnic heritage is indelibly tied to the historic church and the people who continue to live it's history. The case before you today is just another example of the onslaught that is using altered and amended regulation so designed for the express purpose of legitimizing what would otherwise be unlawful, and in every instance immoral and plain old wrong. This is non-sense to think that people can be expected to continue to suffer loss at every turn and yet maintain peace, order, and quiet while harmoniously going from day to day like nothing is happening at all. Come on now, do I really have to spell it out for everyone? The oldest African American structure in Southwest from the original L'Enfant Plan as well as being the second oldest structure in Southwest period, and we would go to such an extent as to commit sacrilege by not only desecrating the site and structure through partial demolition, but we would even violate the very spirit of the inner sanctuary in the name of a dollar which clearly states as it's motto, "In God We Trust." Ironically, this reminds me of the old joke, "In God We Trust, all others pay cash." The all others here is the people of Southwest and particularly the African American population who are direct descendants of the people who helped shape and make the history that is an integral part of the church. My ancestors frown upon everyone who would even dare to think that your wealth and your regulations will overcome the spirit of a people who's sorrows and joy helped to make America the great power that she is in the world of today, and the moment you enter that sanctuary will be the time when every other unimaginable thing you have done in violation of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the District of Columbia, will become a great affliction upon you. I universally cry that this action will be your albatross for as long as you continue to allow "liberty and justice" be only for the wealthy and elite few, rather than for the "all." This is how I have come to feel as a citizen of this great nation and resident of this national city, and I am not alone in this feeling. This is ridiculous. The Historic Preservation Review Board has expressly told the applicant that they would not allow him to build living space in the sanctuary. So why are they here today trying it again anyway? How do they even think that they will get away with it? Can't we

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hardship when you knew beforehand that you were dealing with a history and structure that could not be replaced. As an individual ANC Commissioner I will unofficially state that at our May meeting ANC 6D voted to oppose the present application and at our June meeting their was a motion for reconsideration in order to amend the previous month's vote but the reconsidered motion failed 4 to 3 thus leaving the previous motion to oppose in tack. There were also question as to whether the ANC could legally reconsider a motion at another meeting over a month after the previous motion had passed. Once again ANC 6D is being unscrupulous in the delivery of it's actions before this and other public/private bodies by using abject transliterations of official actions, which tend only to generate a cloud of confusion and suspicion as to who they really represent, the people of the Government of the District of Columbia, or the wealthy elite? For all these reasons and more I ask that you vote "no" to the application that is before you.