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TO: D.C. Zoning Commission

CASE: No. 03-30

In its new application, Square 643 has reversed its position on demolishing the Old Friendship Baptist Church and now supports preservation, which is commendable.

In response to concerns of the Commission, Square 643 has also reduced the height of its proposed building from 90 to 70 feet.

Still, in its revised application, Square 643 offers **NO benefit to the neighborhood or to Southwest** from proposed height change to 70 feet.

Square 643's **sole relevant ground** for seeking the height change is to provide more living units, thus helping to meet the Mayor's goal of attracting more people to the District. If that reasoning holds, then presumably any developer anywhere in Washington can obtain a height change simply by uttering the magic words: "Mayor's goal."

The 70-foot height will produce a narrow, slab-like building that will stand out like an architectural sore thumb. It will be 50 feet higher than adjacent townhouses on the north, and 30 feet higher than the adjacent Randall School on the south. From the Capitol Building, it will look conspicuous, lonely, out of place.

I urge the Commission to reject the application for height change. Let Square 643 make a reasonable profit at 40 feet instead of more profit at 70 feet.

The height is not right for the site.

Thank you.

Joseph Foote

JOSEPH FOOTE
Property Owner Adjacent to the Old Friendship Baptist Church

[redacted]
CASE NO. 03-30
EXHIBIT NO. 55

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