June 16. 2005

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

RE: Zoning Commission Case No. 03-30
Square 643 Associates PUD

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

I am Bishop Douglas Williams, of the Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ. The Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ is pleased to state its support for the proposed preservation and adaptive reuse of the historic Old Friendship Baptist Church at 734 1st Street. S.W. in this proposed planned unit development. Our congregation owned and used this church from 1981 until approximately four years ago. Although the existing church and adjacent auxiliary building served us well for those many years, we were over a period of time unable to find a congregation to purchase or rent the church and consequently sold it to Mr. Steve Tanner.

We are pleased that Mr. Tanner has been able to preserve the existing sanctuary building and add a handsome addition designed by the well-known architectural firm, Shalom Baranes and Associates. The proportions of the proposed apartment house are very attractive in combination with the church building.

We believe the new apartment house will be an asset to the neighborhood, bringing new residents and vitality to this corner of Southwest Washington. The nonprofit office use will also bring needed daytime activity.

Our church congregation is extremely pleased with this preservation and sensitive addition to our place of worship of 20 years. and we urge the Zoning Commission to approve the proposed plans.

Sincerely,

+ Douglas Williams

Bishop Douglas Williams
Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 03-30
EXHIBIT NO. 56

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