

Testimony of Heidi Tseu
Re: Case 05-26/2950 Tilden Street, NW

June 22, 2006

My name is Heidi Tseu and I'm a resident of the 3883 Condominiums. I live in a 6th floor unit with a total of two windows that both face this proposed building site and I am here to testify that this project proposal is not appropriate and the only right that Clark Realty should have is matter of right zoning.

I chose to rent and then purchase in Cleveland Park because of its safety, convenience to the metro, suburban feel, and beautiful scenery. Unfortunately, when I purchased, the agent who sold me the unit omitted the fact that this proposal was going forward and specifically told me that the lot would be used for townhomes. What I purchased and what I can see now are a row of charming townhomes, trees in the distance, blue skies, and the tall church that is now Howard Law School. What Clark is proposing will mean that I am to look down at a courtyard 56 feet from my window with lighted glass corridors that may or may not be blinking on and off, depending on who chooses to walk in the hallway at that time. More importantly, that immense massing of this building will carry the feel of more Dupont Circle than Cleveland Park.

I feel that I am qualified to speak to this project from two different perspectives. That of a 26 year old in my first job who truly appreciates the need for development near metro stations and that of a homeowner in the Forest Hills/Cleveland Park area. In both these capacities, I can confidently say that Clark's proposal does not make sense. Smart development is needed, however, that does not translate into building as much as possible into the available spaces. Cleveland Park is unique, anyone who lives there will tell you that, it successfully mixes the urban and suburban elements to create a neighborhood feel. What Clark proposes will tip this balance and jeopardize this success. By clumsily trying to stuff as many high priced units as possible into this area, Clark is destroying the very reason that people would want to move here. As for smart development, it's been touted as a noble justification for this project; however, even that is not being served in this instance. You can rest assured that people that need access to the metro and convenience to the city will not even see any advertisements for these types of units. This development is not smart, it's greedy and it's inappropriate. Please support matter of right zoning.

ZONING COMMISSION
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EXHIBIT No. 140
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