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9 April 10, 2006

Office of Zoning
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Washington, DC 20001

Attn: Sharon S. Schellin
Acting Secretary of the Zoning Commission

Subj: Affordable housing (Case NO. 05-39)

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As I watch the DC Council's discussion on the revitalization and reinvesting in the neighborhoods, in addition to last month receiving the St. Martin's Project Newsletter and reading an article on "Tensions Boil over Affordable Housing", by Robert E. Pierre a Washington Post staff writer. The article was about people being against affordable housing. As a homeowner in the neighborhood that was talked about I want my voice to be heard.

As a more than thirty year resident of ward 5, I have lived the ups and downs of my neighborhood. Now that the neighborhood is coming back with new families buying homes in the area, and the property values are increasing I feel that this is a positive.

I have some concerns about the Catholic Community Services proposal to build a large 184-unit apartment complex on the site at 116 T Street, N.E. I agree that we need affordable housing, but at what cost.

Now that Sursum Quarters is coming down, the site of the old Sibley Hospital. Sibley Hospital was relocated to a quiet section of NW Washington. I go back to living in my home in those days of quiet peace.

My questions are, just what is St. Martin's proposing as housing that will not change the current zoning of R-4, the purpose of which preserve single-family housing? Why can't affordable single family housing be placed on that site? Since St.Martin's newsletter stated that housing will be affordable housing for fully employed or retirees. Why is it necessary to build a 184-unit site causing the site to be rezoned?

I watched St. Martin's house go from a convent and St. Martin's also sit on the site which was still a quiet environment, to becoming a shelter for homeless women and many other shelters coming to the ward, without resident input. Over the years I watched the crime rate increase. Today, the site houses about 13 working men and the property is currently being cared for. This was not always the case.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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EXHIBIT NO. 13
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EXHIBIT NO.13

As a retiree who raised a child who attended St. Martin's school, the Academy of Notre Dame, under-grad and grade school, I chose to continue to live in my home and want to enjoy the enrichment to my neighborhood.

Just how much of this 184-unit housing will be for section 8. As a country we know that the Sursum Quarter and any of the other over-sized complexes around the country have not worked. Why go down that road again in 2006?

I have no problem with affordable housing, but is it asking too much to want to live in a community that has the same accommodations as some of the other neighborhoods.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Elizabeth Wright