

MEMO

To: Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia

From: Ms. Jasmin Mize, owner of 125 U St. NE, Washington, DC 20002

RE: **CASE NO. 05-39** (The Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Communities Services – Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment @ square 3531, Lots 114 & 115)

Date: 27 November 2006

**REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY AT A PUBLIC HEARING ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007 – CASE NO. 05-39**

I, Jasmin Mize, write to request participation as an individual, in the Zoning Commission’s Public Hearing on Case No. 05-39, in reference to an application for rezoning submitted by the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Communities Services (jointly, the “applicant”). I am a resident of the Eckington neighborhood and my home is in the 100 block of U St. NE, just one block north of the proposed site of rezoning.

Furthermore, I am a citizen who is concerned about the applicant’s large development proposal, which suggests an immense residential living complex in Square 3531, Lots 114 & 115. The applicant has proposed a five-story high, full city block apartment that is fully inconsistent with the historic styles of architecture and the intimate social character of the neighborhood.

Many of the homes in the Eckington neighborhood are federal-style row homes that are close to 100 years old. The neighbor is characterized by several blocks of multi-colored facades, which is reminiscent of the turn-of-the-century era. Washington D.C. is a city where national history is of paramount importance and value.

Currently, many Eckington residents have lived in the neighborhood for over fifty years. I have been a resident for 27 years. Residents in this neighborhood appreciate its quiet and intimate feel, and often celebrate holidays and community events together in unison.

While much of the city of Washington, D.C. has experienced pervasive economic and growth and aggressive gentrification, the Eckington neighborhood relishes in its relatively untouched state of classic, urban homes and its residents enjoy a quiet, understated stability.

The applicant’s proposal is so large that it is to take up one whole city block. No structure in the Eckington neighborhood is even half that size. McKinley High School is just across the street from the proposed site, along two other public schools and a well-used football field. In such areas where there is a high population of children, it is illogical to propose an immense apartment complex that would increase the street traffic.

While the need for urban housing is real and important, the Eckington neighborhood represents a vital piece of the capital city’s history which should not be compromised for the sake of an immense apartment building. Eckington is positioned on

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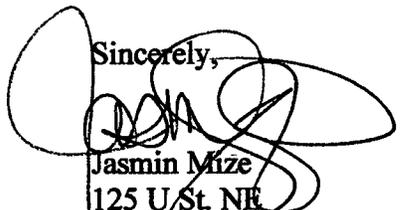
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-39
EXHIBIT NO. 35
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-39
EXHIBIT NO. 35

a steep incline that enjoys fabulous views of the monuments and other significant architecture of the downtown area. Creating a huge structure such as the one proposed by the applicants would completely destroy the spectacular views that Eckington's residents have enjoyed for decades.

Adding such a large building would completely change the atmosphere of this intimate neighborhood. Eckington is within a class neighborhoods in this capital city that are being extinguished for the sake of large development and quick fixes to urban housing demands. The applicant's plan is simply ill-suited for the Eckington neighborhood and would only detract from the quality of life that exists here today.

I would like to participate as an individual party in the public hearing regarding this matter on January 29, 2007. I would like to speak for the requisite three minutes afforded to individual parties. The city needs to hear from the residents who will most affected by the proposed re-zoning. It is our way of life and intimate neighborhood that faces possible erosion.

Sincerely,

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