

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chair
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
Case #05-42 (Sibley Hospital)
441 4th Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

September 20, 2006

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

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Dear Ms. Mitten:

As residents of the Kent neighborhood, we are very concerned about Sibley Hospital's rezoning application. We live one block south of the hospital on Watson Street and are directly affected by traffic, noise pollution, trash and parking issues created by the hospital.

We ask you to please decline or downsize this proposed medical office building to save the integrity of our neighborhood. Our reasons are as follow:

- The huge increase in traffic will:
 - make it very difficult to exit Palisade Lane onto Loughboro Road;
 - increase the noise at the already confusing and congested Dalecarlia-Loughboro intersection (we can hear honking at all times of the day and night and can't imagine how horrible it is already for the Loughboro residents);
 - increase cut-through traffic on Watson and other local streets, most of whom travel at illegal speeds with little concern for local residents and their children.
- The increased demand for parking and refusal to offer free parking will compound our current complaints about Sibley visitors parking on our neighborhood streets for extended (illegal) periods of time, sometimes even multiple days at a time while blocking the entrance to our home.
- The proposed medical office building is too large and too high. Our neighborhood does not need increased urbanization, bright lights and concrete parking lots where there was once beautiful green space. The city of Washington, DC has plenty of office space available to date. Why not use what is available? Why not make the building smaller to minimize the impact on the area?
- And lastly, we are very concerned about the affect of the construction and subsequent trash on the rodents in this area. This summer, we have been afflicted with a disgusting rat infestation. Multiple exterminators have stated that it is likely due to the major construction project underway at Sibley Hospital. The rodents are being run out of their homes and into our yard. It has been an expensive and worrisome experience. We worry that further disruption of the area is going to exacerbate this problem and would like to know what Sibley has planned (if anything) to help. Maybe the Hospital could pretend to be a good neighbor by installing trash cans at the nearby bus stops so that our neighborhood is not littered with trash. Or even pick up the trash once in a while? The increased density and urbanization will only further this headache.

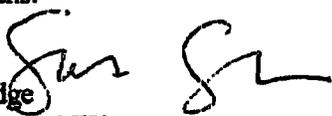
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Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to following this issue closely the coming months.

Best,
Susan Strawbridge
5161 Watson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016
susan.strawbridge@verizon.net



Cc: Jennifer Steingasser
Alma Gates

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-42 (FAX)

EXHIBIT NO. 78

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 78