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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

October 3, 2006

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Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairperson
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 99

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 05-42
PUD and Zoning Map Amendment Application
Letter of Support for Medical Office Building at Sibley Hospital

Dear Chairperson Mitten and Members of the Commission:

Please support Sibley Memorial Hospital's application for the PUD and Zoning Map Amendment for development of a new medical office building and parking garage. I attended Sibley Hospital's presentations to the Palisades Citizens Association (PCA), of which I am a member, and ANC 3D. **I fully support the Hospital's vision for providing space for 100 physicians and outpatient surgery, imaging and retail services, as well as the 750 car parking garage, for the following reasons.**

1. My family and I have received outstanding medical care at Sibley Memorial Hospital. We would experience a significant loss in our quality of life if Sibley Hospital could not remain viable. **Sibley Hospital can only be successful if doctors are willing to practice there.** I have personally lost the services of two OB-GYN physicians who closed their DC practices due to the high cost of operating in DC. Sibley's proposal is a win-win for both the community and the doctors who wish to continue to practice in DC.
2. My employer's health insurance plan allows me to seek medical services from hospitals and physicians throughout the region. I would prefer to seek medical care at Sibley Memorial Hospital, but the **lack of on-site medical offices and convenient outpatient surgery and imaging services**, which is available at suburban hospitals and even Georgetown University Hospital, puts Sibley at a competitive disadvantage for attracting doctors and patients.
3. **The scope and scale of the building plans, as presented to the PCA and ANC 3D, are within the context of the existing buildings on Sibley's campus.** The architect's renderings showed very attractive buildings that would be an asset to the community. The new buildings are located away from Loughboro Road, which reinforces the residential feel of the neighborhood.
4. The DC Department of Transportation presentation indicated that the existing roads can handle the increased traffic, once the intersection of Dalecarlia Parkway and Loughboro Road is improved. Frankly, I use that intersection every day, and it should be improved anyway. **As a 20-year resident of DC, I strongly believe that using my tax dollars to improve the vehicular access for high quality, convenient medical care should take priority over improving intersections that ease access to purely commercial ventures such as Starbucks and Best Buy.** It is unacceptable to me that DC DOT is expecting Sibley Hospital to pay for improvements to the intersection, which is what my tax dollars are for, especially in light of the fact that Sibley Hospital bears a substantial burden of charitable care.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.05-42
EXHIBIT NO.99

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairperson
Page Two
October 3, 2006

5. **I voted along with the majority of PCA members to approve Sibley's plan, as presented, to the PCA.** I attended two ANC 3D meetings in which my support for the hospital was NOT recognized because two of the ANC 3D members wanted more information before hearing from neighbors who support the project. At the final ANC 3D meeting on September 20th, again the views of the community were NOT allowed and we could only watch the proceedings between the ANC 3D Commissioners. The final recommendation made by the ANC 3D does not adequately represent my full support of Sibley Memorial Hospital's application.

In closing, I believe that the Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map Amendment project proposing **a medical office building and accompanying parking garage at Sibley Hospital is a POSITIVE ADDITION to the community.** I believe that it is important to help make sure that Sibley Hospital can continue to provide the important medical services that it currently provides for the community.

I respectfully request that my unqualified support for this application be accepted into the record of this case.

Sincerely,



Christine L. Hackett
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cc: Ms. Jennifer Steingasser
D.C. Office of Planning
801 North Capital Street, N.E., Fourth Floor
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