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October 2, 2006

PAUL E. RAY, AIA

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW., Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the Commission:

This letter is written to convey the reasons I strongly support Sibley Hospital's application for a PUD and a zoning map amendment. I urge you to do the same. As a resident of the Sibley neighborhood since 1971, a former patient of Sibley, and a member of its Trustee Board for over 25 years, I have seen Sibley from the inside and the outside. This gives me personal knowledge of the outstanding service Sibley renders to this community. It is not surprising that the hospital draws patients from Maryland and Virginia. Sibley's reputation as a fine community hospital is widespread.

If Sibley is to continue to provide these high level services to this locality, however, it must continue to successfully compete with other hospitals in the area. A critical concern is the attraction of doctors, especially young doctors, to practice at Sibley. This is particularly difficult, because D. C. is the only jurisdiction in this area that has not passed tort reform. Medical malpractice premiums in surrounding states are much less than those in the District of Columbia. This disparity drives doctors away from Sibley and the District. A medical office building will not only permit Sibley to provide additional medical services, but also, it will attract doctors to practice at Sibley. Physicians in several disciplines find it highly advantageous to have an office on the hospital's campus. It is easy to understand why all of Sibley's competitors have medical office buildings as part of their complex.

Much of Sibley's success in the past several decades, has been its careful analysis of each of the projects it has proposed, and its communication with the community prior to filing an application with city authorities. This project was handled in the same way. The size of the building, the number of doctors to be accommodated, the amount of off-street parking needed, and the impact on the neighborhood were all carefully examined by Sibley Hospital.

In my professional judgement, this project will benefit the community, the city and the region. It will be in keeping with the intent and purpose of the zoning laws, and I urge you to approve it.

Sincerely,

Isham O. Baker

cc: Ms. Jennifer Steingasser, D.C. Office of Planning

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-42

EXHIBIT NO. 118

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EXHIBIT NO.118

2006 OCT 11 11:00 AM

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

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