

15 March 2006

Kent Ozkum M.D.  
1510 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
202-337-5939home  
202-345-1792work  
kzo@verizon.net

#05-42

2006 MAR 20 PM 4: 01

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

RECEIVED

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairperson  
D.C. Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairperson Mitten,

I am writing to express my support of a project recently coming before the ANC and the D.C. Zoning Commission – that is Sibley Memorial Hospital’s request to build a Medical Office Building adjacent to its current location.

It is my opinion that the hospital serves a vital public interest and service. I am speaking both as an ANC resident, as a physician who works at Sibley and also, as someone who receives their medical care at Sibley.

When I tell people in my community that I work there, the usual response is ‘I love that hospital’ followed by ‘that’s *my* hospital’.

Having a thriving hospital in D.C. these days, may seem like a bit of an oxymoron. There is tremendous pressure medico-legally and financially on our community hospitals, as well as a disincentive for physicians to work in D.C.

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
**District of Columbia**

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO 05-42  
EXHIBIT NO 11

I can clearly understand the importance of having a medical office building for the hospital. Many of my peer physicians complain that there is no office space on the hospital campus. Many of my patients tell me that it would be very convenient for them to have their physicians' office adjacent to the hospital, rather than downtown or the congested Chevy Chase corridor.

Many of our patients are old and frail, and its difficult for them to manage in more congested settings where parking and walking can be a challenge.

I have looked over the plans that the hospital has proposed and I find it to be VERY reasonable in terms of height and set backs. The hospital has a long history of working very hard to be a good neighbor to the residents who live next to the hospital. I do think it is a little unfair for someone to buy a house within a stones throw of a hospital, and then complain because they don't like living next to one.

In summary, please don't let a vocal few, some of whom may have personal agendas against the hospital unrelated to this project, set the tone for this discussion. I think if you asked, the majority of people in our community would be very much in favor of adding a Medical Office building to the hospital...*to their hospital!*

Sincerely,



Kent Ozkum M.D.