

The Friends of Palisades Park

October 5, 2007

Anthony Hood, Chairperson
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 Application
Sibley Hospital's Contribution for the Renovation of Palisades Park

Dear Chairperson Hood and Members of the Commission:

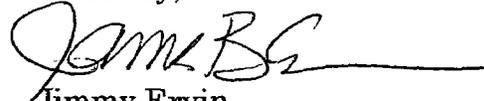
I am the Chair of the Friends of Palisades Park. The Friends of the Palisades Park is an organization with participation from dozens of community members. It was created in 1994 to coordinate community support for the park and recreation center. Palisades Park is a treasured meeting place and resource for all residents of the Palisades neighborhood.

Earlier this summer, representatives of Sibley Hospital contributed \$30,000 to the Friends of Palisades Park for the installation of benches on the north side of the newly installed soccer field at the Palisades Park. I am happy to report that the new benches have been ordered and will be very much appreciated as this Fall's youth soccer season comes into full swing.

On behalf of the Friends of Palisades Park, we believe that Sibley's financial contribution to the Palisades Park is a truly appropriate community amenity that should be included in Sibley's Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map Amendment project. Sibley is a valued member of the Palisades community and we believe that it is important to help make sure that Sibley Hospital can continue to provide the important medical services that it currently provides.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Ervin
Chair



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 211E

POLICE

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mous," and he pointed out a "danger of ending up with a city council [member] who controls the police." Most wards encompass parts of two or three police districts for a reason, she said.

In addition, he noted a possible logistical challenge, with Rock Creek separating the Dupont and Sheridan-Kalorama areas from the bulk of the 2nd District. In addition to Foggy Bottom and West End, the 2nd District encompasses all of the neighborhoods west of Rock Creek Park, an expansive area from Chevy Chase south to Georgetown. The 3rd District includes the Logan Circle and Shaw neighborhoods, as well as Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights.

A further physical setback,

Halligan said, is that the 3rd District police station, at 1620 V St., lies near the border of Police Service 306. Moving the area under the charges of the 2nd District station, three miles away at 3320 Idaho Ave., seems "a little silly," he said.

"I don't believe they've worked out all of those details," said Hughes when asked about the physical transfer of police staff between the two stations.

Hughes said the public will have ample opportunity to discuss and comment on the proposed changes. The police department has invited residents to send opinions to PSA306.move@dc.gov and will hold a community meeting sometime in the future, she said.

Halligan said he has invited Chief Lanier to attend a future meeting of the Dupont Circle advisory neighborhood commission to discuss the redistricting.

AVENUE

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vate industry to a zoning overlay that would specify what types of new businesses can locate in a certain area.

Office of Planning chief of staff Anita Hairston said the planning process began in July 2006, and the office held two workshops with community leaders on the plan last year. The office issued the draft plan this week for review by stakeholders and D.C. government agencies, she said. In late July, there will be a mayor's hearing, and the D.C.

Council will consider it this fall, she said.

Brightwood Community Association president Kamili Anderson, who serves on the advisory committee for the plan, said any scheme for Georgia Avenue development should provide plenty of retail and services.

Retail development does not necessarily have to be accompanied by residential development, Anderson said during her testimony. "This apparently seems to be the only model in play throughout much of the city east of the park," she said of the combination.

She pointed to downtown Silver

Spring, where large-scale development began with stores and restaurants, and she lamented that Ward 4 residents "flock to Silver Spring in droves" for shopping and dining.

The outlook may change with some new incentives to keep D.C. residents shopping in D.C., including the Office of Planning Retail Action Strategy, aimed at expanding and attracting retail, Hairston said.

Derrick Woody, the Great Streets coordinator for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, mentioned several upcoming mixed-use projects in his testimony.

He cited 15 projects now in

PALISADES DONATION



Sibley Memorial Hospital recently presented a \$30,000 donation to Friends of Palisades Park. The donation will go toward the purchase and installation of benches along the northern sideline of the new artificial-turf soccer field. The benches, to be installed later this summer, will provide a natural delineation for the field from other areas of the park, according to Friends of Palisades Park chair Jimmy Ervin. Shown in the photo, from left, are Ervin, Palisades Recreation Center Advisory Council treasurer Catherine Ryan and vice chair Tommye Grant, Sibley Memorial Hospital president and chief executive officer Robert L. Sloan and Sibley executive vice president and chief operating officer Jerry Price.

Bill Petros/The Current

progress along the Georgia Avenue-7th Street corridor, "ranging from public art to cultural facilities to mixed-use/mixed-income projects," Woody said. The Georgia Avenue projects will add more than \$200 million of new investments to the corridor by 2012 and include 1.4 million square feet of construction, he said. He said the projects will produce more than 680 units of new housing, 160 of which will be classified as "affordable."

Woody mentioned several city-backed initiatives, including his office's, contributions to attracting an outpost of the Meridian Restaurant and Bar to the Lofts at Brightwood, at 5832 Georgia Ave. He said Meridian would be one of the first new full-service sit-down restaurants to come to the corridor in decades. The restaurant owner

house a movie theater, bookstore, child-care center, gym, restaurant or combination thereof.

In response to Woody's testimony, Bowser said she is concerned that only seven of the 15 projects he mentioned are in Ward 4. The rest are in wards 1 and 2.

Both Bowser and Brown said the deputy mayor should make a more concentrated attempt to press for affordable housing. Brown suggested that the office create a centralized affordable-housing waiting list.

While officials discussed plans, neighbors presented their own concerns about development.

T.A. Uqdah, executive director of the 14th Street Uptown Business Council, said neighborhood development programs should provide business training geared toward helping black entrepreneurs; help

Reach your neighbors.