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September 3, 2006

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

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

Re: Opposition to Sibley Hospital Expansion

Dear Ms. Mitten and Commission Members:

I am writing to express my deep concern with the proposed Sibley Hospital Medical Office expansion and to request that you oppose Sibley's request for zoning changes that would forever alter the residential character of one of the great neighborhoods in our Nation's Capitol.

Creating safe, vibrant and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods requires careful planning, committed neighbors and business owners, and years of community efforts. As a home owner on MacArthur Boulevard in the Palisades, I am proud that our cooperative efforts with the City over many years have succeeded in making the Palisades a pleasant place to live and work. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood where residents walk to local shops, children walk to area schools, and volunteers roll up their sleeves to weed, prune and plant common areas, such as the public median along MacArthur Boulevard. The City's efforts to slow traffic on our streets have succeeded in making our roads safer for drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians and pets.

Regrettably, Sibley Hospital has proposed the construction of an office tower that now threatens all that has been achieved by the City and our community. At a time when the City is working to make the District more pedestrian friendly, Sibley has proposed a massive office complex that would draw 4,000 to 5,000 car trips daily to a residential area that is already experiencing growth in commuter traffic. Sibley's proposal to dramatically expand its operations follows several other recent expansions by the hospital and the decision by the Corps of Engineers to permanently truck dewatering sludge through our neighborhood via dump trucks on these same roads. These collective impacts now threaten the residential character of our neighborhood.

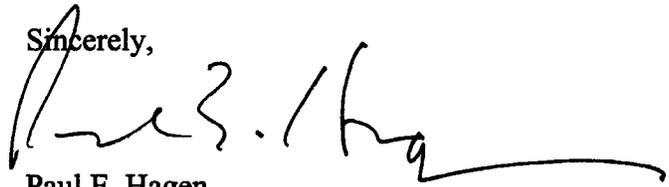
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-42 L+
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. 53
CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 53

While there is no question that Sibley is one of the area hospitals that provides valuable health care services, this office tower expansion is not critical to maintaining quality health care given the many other options for medical offices in our area. Moreover, Sibley's management has shown little regard for the growing impact of their operations on local residents.

The proposed Sibley office tower is simply too large and fundamentally incompatible with the residential nature of our community. I urge you to oppose this effort to undermine our shared efforts that have to date succeeded in making the Palisades a safe and pedestrian friendly place to call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Hagen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul E. Hagen

Cc: Jennifer Steingasser, Office of Planning
Rachael Thomson, ANC 3D 04
Alma Gates, Chair, ANC 3D