

Katherine Van Sickle
4923 Ashby St. NW
Washington DC 20007
Sept 11, 2006

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chair,
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 76

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2006 SEP 18 AM 10:40

RE: ZC Application No 05-42
PUD and Zoning Map Amendment (Sibley Hospital)

Dear Chairman Mitten:

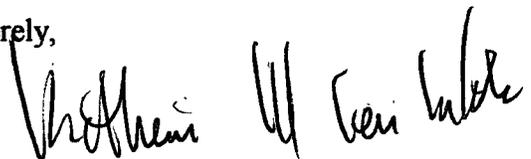
I am writing to express my opposition to the position taken by the Palisades Citizens Association (PCA) regarding the Sibley Hospital Medical Office Building expansion in a vote June 6, 2006. This vote, passed by a mere handful of participants out of the 2500 Palisades community members, endorsed the Sibley Hospital proposal. As a member of the Palisades community and PCA, I urge the Zoning Commission to avoid relying on the PCA action in its deliberations on this case, as it is not clear that the vote, given its small number, represents the interest of the wider community. There were several deficiencies in the PCA vote.

1. Timing- The vote taken in June was premature, and the members were voting on a proposal that had not even been filed formally with the Zoning Commission. In its filing, the Hospital made changes that altered the substance of proposal voted on by the PCA. Having recently witnessed the deliberations on this issue during the ANC meeting with Sibley Hospital Sept. 12, 2006, it is clear that the Hospital is still revising its plan. This further accentuates how out of date any PCA action was three months ago.

2. Representativeness- The Palisades Citizens Association does not include the area where Sibley Hospital is located. The coverage of the PCA ends at the southern end of Loughboro Road. The Hospital is located in the Spring Valley area. Accordingly, it is important to also include the views of the Spring Valley community and the formal mechanism for doing this is reflected in the statutory creation of the ANC. In this case, ANC 3D covers both Palisades and Spring Valley. I understand the ANC will take its position on the Sibley case in the near future and urge the Commission to give the ANC decision the "great weight" granted to it by law.

The Sibley proposal represents a significant expansion. As discussed at the recent ANC meeting, the enterprise would include as many as 5000 additional vehicle trips a day to the new 130,000 square foot complex. Sibley has been an outstanding community hospital, serving ourselves and all our neighbors, but any major expansion of this magnitude should be fully assessed to assure the community it serves will not be suffocated in this new endeavor. Alternative traffic options, fewer vehicle trips and a smaller building should be fully investigated before rushing to approve a complex with such a huge potential negative impact.

Sincerely,



Katherine Van Sickle

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.05-42
EXHIBIT NO.76