



**Best Western
Capitol Skyline Hotel**

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August 20, 2007

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, Suite 210S
Washington DC 20001

**Re: Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment Application
The Former Randall Junior/Senior High School, 65 I Street S.W. (Square 643-S, Lot
801)**

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of the Corcoran Gallery of Art project at the Randall Junior High School. In the Fall of 2006, the District of Columbia sold the former Randall Junior High School property to the Corcoran in order that it may be redeveloped as a new facility for the Corcoran's College of Art + Design along with a residential complex.

I am the General Manager of the Best Western Capitol Skyline, which is owned by Mera and Don Rutell, who are noted collectors of contemporary art and own the largest private collection of art in Miami, Florida. The Rubells and I are supporters of this new project between the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Monument Realty. The Randall School will be given a new life again as a vibrant arts center for the Southwest community.

Currently, the Randall School is impacting negatively on the business of the Best Western Capitol Skyline Hotel. This property is a vacant building on "I" Street and a blight on the neighborhood due to the homeless people who loiter on the property. Because of the condition of the school, the Best Western Capitol Skyline has lost contracts and tourist dollars. Our guests complain about the unsafe and undesirable nature of this neighborhood based on what they see.

The Corcoran's newly renovated school and residential complex will positively impact the economic situation of the SW Community. An increase of visitors to the SW community made up of student's, their families and "Artists-in-Residence" will increase tourist dollars that have not been previously spent in this neighborhood. We have been in close contact with the Corcoran and are in eager anticipation for the new Randall School project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

Sincerely,

Dixie Eng
General Manager

**cc. Roberta Weiner, ANC 6D
Jocelyn File, Corcoran Gallery of Art**

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CASE NO.

ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia

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CASE NO. 07-13

EXHIBIT NO. 36