



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

TOMMY WELLS
Councilmember - Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Human Services

Committee Member
Health
Public Services and Consumer Affairs
Economic Development

November 5, 2007

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

Re: Support for the development of 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 application filed on behalf of the Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and MR Randall Capital seeking approval of a planned unit development project on the site of the Randall Junior High School. The planned unit development that has been proposed will provide for the adaptive reuse of the historic Randall School for use as a museum and school of fine arts, retention of significant portions of the historic Randall School and a new residential development including a substantial amount of affordable housing.

There has been unprecedented effort made by the ANC 6D and the Corcoran Gallery and its developer Monument Realty to wrestle through issues related to building design, traffic patterns, community amenities, and the role of the Corcoran in enhancing community art education and appreciation. The negotiation team appointed by the ANC worked tirelessly through repeated negotiation sessions with the Corcoran and Monument representatives, and in the final stages, sought my involvement as a third party to help find consensus on some remaining sticking points. I was pleased at the final outcome whereby both parties felt their efforts had resulted in a better planned unit development and that a long term relationship had been forged between the new Corcoran School of Art in SW and the residents of the SW community from its beginnings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Tommy Wells
Ward 6

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

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-13
EXHIBIT NO. 51

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