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February 3, 2009

Chairman Anthony Hood
DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001
Re: PUD case no. 08-15

Dear Mr. Hood,

I'm writing to urge you and the other commissioners to approve the Friendship-Macomb SC Inc. (Giant Foods) PUD case no. 08-15. I've been waiting for many years to have a new, updated Giant Foods store near my home. The current store is dilapidated, dirty, and depressing. In addition, all the stores that used to be around the Giant have gone away, leaving the block between Macomb Street and Newark Street empty but for Cactus Cantina. This is terrible, in a neighborhood that certainly could use more development. The real estate is in a prime area, with a surrounding population that can afford to—and most certainly does—shop in upscale stores such as Whole Foods and the Georgetown Safeway nearby. If the new Giant Foods store plans are approved, more money would stay in the neighborhood, and people would definitely walk, instead of driving, to the store.

I've lived on Cathedral Avenue for more than 40 years, and in the past I've been happy to shop at the Newark Street Giant. But for the last nearly five years, I hesitate to set foot in the store, knowing that what I want usually won't be there; the store will be unclean; the store personnel will be unfriendly; the merchandise will sometimes be out of date; the environment will be outmoded; and the store will be too small to offer many of the goods that are available at Whole Foods and the Safeway.

Please do what you can to approve swiftly the excellent plans that Giant Food has offered to the neighborhood. I look forward to shopping again in my close-by store!

Sincerely yours,

Rona Mendelsohn
Rona Mendelsohn

ZONING COMMISSION
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CASE NO. 08-15
FILE NO. 72