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U.S. OFFICE OF ZONING

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Chairman Anthony Hood
DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: PUD case no. 08-15 - Friendship Shopping Center at Newark and Wisconsin

Dear Chairman Hood,

I strongly support the application by Friendship-Macomb SC Inc. (Giant) for a Planned Unit Development at Newark and Wisconsin Streets as submitted and amended by Giant. My family has lived on Porter Street for more than thirty years and seen the neighborhood grow and develop except for this one underutilized area. It is more than time to move forward and create a more positive place in our community.

I remember the September 2000 ANC3C meeting when Giant presented its plans for developing this site (DC Zoning Commission Case No. 00-12C). It has been almost a decade with no approvals, no permits and no larger shopping store. Instead, we have seen delay after delay by the people living adjacent to the existing shopping center carping about how the redevelopment will lower the quality of their life. When they purchased their house next to a shopping center, did they expect it to never modernize? Did they expect the City or even the local community to put their own lives on hold forever with no progress? This shopping center was built in 1952 or fifty seven years ago. Fifty seven years before that was when street cars first linked Cleveland Park to downtown Washington and development began. Should we still be a farming community? This PUD is long overdue and needed by the local community - even by those doing the carping.

Building this PUD will revitalize an area that is rapidly slipping onto both obsolescence and dysfunction. It will improve my life in a number of ways. First, it will provide a one stop shopping center within walking distance of my home. It will give me superior services both in the food store and in the many small stores that will be part of the center. I look forward to additional restaurants and appreciate the continued policy of Giant of providing parking during off shopping hours for the patrons of local restaurants. I anticipate with delight the more pedestrian friendly streetscape that is proposed.

We ask that you take the necessary steps to rapidly approve PUD case # 08-15 so that our neighborhood can move forward and develop along with the rest of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely


Gabriel Fineman

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-15
EXHIBIT NO. 95