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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

February 4, 2009

Anthony Hood, Chairman
D.C. Zoning Commission
DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW (#210S)
Washington, DC 20001

RE: PUD Case No. 08-15

Dear Chairman Hood:

As a District resident who has resided at the same home on Cathedral Avenue for the past 41 years, and who has only the best hopes for the District's future, for the future of the District's tax base, and for the future of the Giant development in the area of Wisconsin and Newark Avenues, I write to you and your fellow commissioners to implore you to approve in full, and without extraneous conditions, the pending proposal of Giant Foods. This proposal is an excellent and ambitious means to redevelop the area and to make it - finally and after many years of deterioration - into a part of this city where all the local residents, and especially those who are up in their years, can feel free to walk comfortably, to shop properly for groceries, and to both enjoy and feel proud of the neighborhood in which they live.

As you may know, during the past several years, largely because of the opposition of a dedicated few individuals who do not wish to see progress and who prefer to look back rather than forward, the area in question has been allowed to become so dilapidated that my wife and I have ceased walking there and would under almost no circumstances shop in the Giant in its current deplorable condition. Much as we would prefer not to do so, we are forced to use our car to travel to attractive and properly stocked supermarkets and stores in other areas of the city. Anything you and your fellow commissioners can do to correct this sad state of affairs - and to not attach conditions to your approval that might in any way lessen the scope and substance of Giant's proposal or delay their reconstruction plans - would be greatly appreciated by my wife and by me and also by the hundreds of area residents who constitute the silent majority but who, like us, are on the side of progress and support the Giant proposal.

I am sure you are aware of small segments of certain communities that, for their own personal reasons, are prepared, willing and financially able to thwart progress with lengthy legal briefs, written submissions and petitions, all joined with the usual canard of "I-support-but" logic. Please do not let them sway you in any way in this case. Their hugely unwelcome efforts in the past have already caused delays of several years in the rehabilitation of the area. They should not be allowed to do so again.

Respectfully,

08-15
EXHIBIT NO. 97



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