

February 10, 2009

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2009 FEB 10 PM 3:58

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

Re: PUD Case #08-15

Dear Chairman Hood,

Please approve the Application for Planned Unit Development of the Friendship Shopping Center located at Newark Street and Wisconsin Avenue. The proposed project will transform the dilapidated grocery store and vacant or dying commercial strip into a vibrant, tax-paying, community-oriented, and environmentally-friendly resource for thousands of old, new and future community residents.

The community surrounding the Friendship Shopping Center overwhelmingly supports rapid approval of the PUD Application. The pent-up desire for this improved grocery store, residences and retail space and the frustration at its continued delay are palpable throughout the neighborhood. In fact, the desire to get this project built prompted 175 community members to join AWARE - Advocates of Wisconsin Avenue Renewal - a group of ordinary community members dedicated to obtaining rapid approval of the PUD Application. Another 400 community members signed the AWARE petition in support of the project. ANC3C, in an unusual display of cooperation and consensus-building, unanimously voted to support the project with conditions. As a long-term Cleveland Park resident, I have never seen such widespread and vociferous support for a building project.

There are critics of the project and some of their criticism had a legitimate basis at one point in time. The critics are, however, relatively few in number, and their claim to be the neighborhood's voice on this application are illegitimate. By filing applications for historic landmark designation, legal motions challenging the Zoning Commission's authority, and funding private lawyers and traffic consultants, these few have attempted to elevate their voices and their interests over their neighbors'.

The local critics are uncompromising about their concerns. The ANC made significant efforts to address traffic, parking, and loading issues by adding eleven conditions to their resolution supporting the application. The Applicant also has made significant efforts to address traffic and parking, including agreeing to (1) modify the location of the loading docks, (2) fund noise studies and dampening measures, (3) fund an operations management plan, (4) fund traffic studies for the neighborhood, and (5)

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

08-15

EXHIBIT NO.

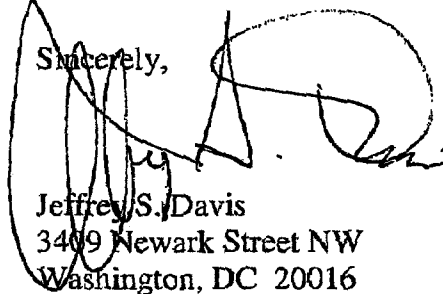
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fund traffic calming measures both before and after the grocery store opens. The District Department of Transportation ("DDOT") listened carefully to the neighborhood's concerns and agreed to accommodate them in DDOT's study.

Despite many efforts by the ANC, the Applicant, and DDOT to address traffic, loading, and parking issues, this small group of community members refuse to be placated. The neighborhood critics raise the same parade of horrors – congestion, speeding, parking violations – that never seem to materialize but that they regularly raise to defeat potential development. They give no credit to the many efforts to address their concerns and no deference to DDOT, the Office of Planning, or this Commission to properly apply their expertise and DC law in this matter.

On behalf of myself, my friends, and my community, I ask that you embrace the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the community by promptly approving the Friendship Shopping Center PUD Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Davis", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Jeffrey S. Davis
3409 Newark Street NW
Washington, DC 20016