

9 February 2009

Anthony Hood, Chair
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

OFFICE OF ZONING
2009 FEB 12 AM 11:38

Dear Mr. Hood and Zoning Commission:

I am writing in reference to Zoning Case Number 08-15, Stop & Shop/Giant's application for a Planned Unit Development on Wisconsin Avenue at Newark Street NW. I am strongly in favor of having the measure passed without delay, for the following reasons:

- 1. One small step for Giant, one giant leap for McLean Gardens:** It is my opinion that the neighborhood immediately surrounding the Giant has been underserved for too long. Many of my neighbors routinely drive to other grocery stores in Georgetown and Tenleytown because the Newark Street Giant is inadequate for any but the most basic grocery needs. Driving to shop for groceries a waste of time and gasoline. We need a state-of-the-art grocery store that we can WALK to. The fact that the proposed new Giant will be built to the most current "green" standards makes it all the more desirable.
- 2. Nature abhors a vacuum ... and so do developers:** The block on which the Giant sits has been mostly vacant for many years. Opponents of this project seem to believe that keeping it that way will preserve the quiet character of the neighborhood. But inevitably, sooner or later, the block WILL be developed. Whether one agrees with every last detail of the current plan, one thing is clear: it could be much, MUCH worse. If the proposed five-story building is defeated this time around, a ten-story building may spring from its ashes — and next time around, it just might pass. Many studies have been undertaken; many concessions to neighborhood wishes have been made. Let's move this project forward while we still have a voice in the outcome.
- 3. A positive effect on property values:** When I bought my condo in McLean Gardens in 2007, my one reservation was that the neighborhood immediately surrounding it seemed noticeably lacking in vitality. The stretch of Wisconsin Avenue between Glover Park and Tenleytown seemed out of character with the lively neighborhoods to the north and south. I was pleased to discover that apparently I wasn't the only one who had noticed the dissonance, and that a plan to revitalize the area was already on the drawing board. I strongly believe that turning this stretch of Wisconsin Avenue back into a lively neighborhood instead of a ghost town will have a very positive effect on not only our property values, but our quality of life.

I urge the Commission to vote in support of the development so that the project can move forward without further delay.

Respectfully,



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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

08-15

EXHIBIT NO.

142