

Testimony of Laurence J. Aurbach, President, Woodland Normanstone Neighborhood
Association
Zoning Commission Case 08-15
April 23, 2009

(background of the Woodland Normanstone neighborhood, the Woodland Normanstone Neighborhood Association, previous cases before the Zoning Commission)

The Woodland Normanstone Neighborhood Association enthusiastically supports the Wisconsin Avenue Giant redevelopment, Zoning Commission case 08-15. This is, and will be our neighborhood shopping. In place of an eyesore, our neighborhood will get a long-awaited, attractive modern grocery as well as additional retail and housing. We support the proposed architectural features, inviting community spaces, pedestrian friendly street design, car sharing, workforce housing, and ample on-site parking.

We note that the surrounding properties include eight story buildings on the north and east of the proposal and a five story building is on the south. The proposed residential density is compatible with surrounding properties.

Our community is well located, reasonably safe, a great urban environment with trees and gardens, and for the most part has involved, intelligent and responsible neighbors. We have in our midst this pocket of urban blight that is the subject of this case. The owner has been trying to improve it for over ten years. The time is come to get on with the redevelopment of this property. Delay is the enemy of progress here and friend of continued decay, so we urge the Commission to authorize this project to move forward.

ZONING COMMISSION
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EXHIBIT No. 191
City of Columbia
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