



**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Office of the Rector

April 10, 2009

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OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairperson
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N. W., Room 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 08-33 – PUD and Zoning Map
Amendment Application of Conference Center Associates, I, LLC
Support for the Project

Dear Chairperson Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

On behalf of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, I am writing this letter to express our complete and unconditional support for the proposed hotel and mixed-use project that is the subject of Zoning Commission Case No. 08-33. We have met with representatives of the applicant in this case and we have reviewed their proposed plans. We believe that the proposed project, located at the intersection of Michigan Avenue, NE and Irving Street, NE, will provide much needed hotel rooms and conference facilities for this area and will help enliven the pedestrian experience along Michigan Avenue.

We believe that the site plan, building heights and proposed uses in the project are all entirely appropriate and are consistent with the types and sizes of structures in this part of the Brookland neighborhood. The removal of the current parking lot and replacement with a development that includes hotel rooms, conference center facilities, a white table cloth restaurant, and neighborhood serving retailers is long overdue. This project will also create a much more pedestrian friendly environment along Michigan Avenue, an environment in which it is easy to imagine people walking along Michigan Avenue from Trinity University and the various hospital campuses to the Brookland/CUA Metro Station.

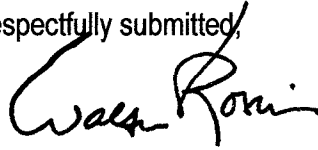
Nearly one million people visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception each year. The ability for these visitors to stay at a wonderful new hotel and conference center in our neighborhood will be a significant benefit to our organization and will also be a significant benefit to the Brookland community. We do not believe that the proposed project will create any adverse impact on the surrounding area. Rather, we view this project as only creating positive results for the neighborhood and the District of Columbia.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-33
EXHIBIT NO. 15

We look forward to the Zoning Commission's expeditious approval of this project. We thank you for your attention to our recommendation regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a distinct "R".

Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi
Rector