CARMEN E. BROWER
412 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

July 11, 1998

Ms. Sheri M. Pruitt-Williams
Interim Director
Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Re: Application Number 16370

Dear Ms. Pruitt-Williams:

I own the residence at 412 New Jersey Avenue, SE, and in that capacity write (also on behalf of my family) in opposition to the above-referenced application.

We oppose the requested special exception to permit a consulting/strategic planning business as requested, since we believe it will seriously detract from (and certainly not contribute to) the maintenance and development of our neighborhood as a truly residential neighborhood populated principally by owner-occupied homes. This block of New Jersey Avenue already has at least two business premises of which we are aware (and a third if you count what is known on the street as "Tommy Boggs' party house" across the street from us).

Car-parking overload in the area, which already is a problem, is not relieved by the apparent promise of the applicant, necessarily temporary, to secure a garage. This situation can change at any time and does not account for the automobiles of the others who will be present working on the premises. Further, once an office of any type is permitted it easily graduates into another type of office. We have had the experience around the corner on D Street when what had been a very quiet sort of home office suddenly was turned for a while into a dry cleaning establishment (which thankfully was closed down promptly when the neighborhood objected). There clearly is no need for the applicant's home to be an office, as within a block there is ample office space available, and in fact from time to time going begging. No compelling need is shown for this exception other than that a former Congressman would prefer to be able to have an office in his residence in our neighborhood. No serious reason, let alone a compelling one, is presented. My discussions with various neighbors on this subject reveals no support whatsoever for this application, but rather disapproval of it.

BZA
CASE No. 16370
EXHIBIT No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16370
EXHIBIT NO.23

We hope that the application will be denied and that he nonetheless will settle on the block. He is welcome to join all of the other luminaries, past and present, who reside on this block (but not to ask for exceptional commercial privileges). It is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood to permit additional businesses of any kind and we strenuously object to this proposal.

Very truly yours,

Carmen Brower

Carmen E. Brower
(Mrs. Charles N. Brower)