STATEMENT BY
GEORGE A. BOYD
BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
RE: BZA APPLICATION NUMBER 16400

DECEMBER 2, 1998

MY NAME IS GEORGE A. BOYD, CHAIRMAN OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5B (ANC 5B). MY STATEMENTS ARE ON BEHALF OF MY CONSTITUENTS IN ANC 5B, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN IVY CITY.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ANC 5B REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH MR. DAVID R. QUAMMEN WHO WAS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MIKE'S HOME (THE MICHAEL E. SHIKO VETERANS CENTER) TO ESTABLISH AN EXPANSION OF THE ONGOING EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED VETERANS (NACV) TO HELP VETERANS IN NEED ON THE PREMISES AT 1350 OKIE STREET, NE. THE CENTER WOULD ENHANCE NACV"S ABILITY TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS MEMBERS BY CREATING JOBS IN HOUSING REHABILITATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP WORK, A SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR WHICH WILL CREATE JOBS AND BUSINESSES THAT MEMBERS MAY EARN AND PROVIDE TRAINING AND COUNSELING SERVICES TO THOSE WILLING TO HELP THEMSELVES.

IN ADDITION, SERVICES TO BE OFFERED INCLUDE:REMEDIAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, COMPUTER-RELATED SKILLS, PERSONAL AND CAREER COUNSELING AND A PREVENTIVE CLINIC.

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AFTER THE PRESENTATION, ANC 5B REPRESENTATIVES WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE CONCEPT TO GIVE THOSE VETERANS WHO HAD RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION, AND SHARED THE FEELING THAT WE OWE OUR VETERANS A SECOND CHANCE TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AND BECOME PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS IN OUR SOCIETY.

WHILE ANC 5B WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED VETERANS' EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A CENTER AT 1350 OKIE STREET, NE TO HELP VETERANS IN NEED OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, WE ARE NOT SYMPATHETIC WITH NACV'S EFFORTS TO FILE BZA APPLICATION NUMBER 16400 SEEKING A VARIANCE FROM OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES REQUIRED FOR A NON-RESIDENTIAL USE TO ALLOW A PUBLIC HALL OF 300 SEATS FOR A PRIVATE CLUB ON THE FIRST FLOOR IN A C-M-1 DISTRICT AT PREMISIS 1350 OKIE STREET, NE (SQUARE 4038, PARCEL 142 / 103).

OUR OPPOSITION TO BZA APPLICATION NUMBER 16400 FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT SUCH AS:

- A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE TO AN EXISTING PARKING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NUMEROUS SMALL BUSINESS;
- THE SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR INMATES (OVER 250 AT TIMES) WHO RESIDE IN THE D. C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER NUMBER 4, AS WELL AS THE DELIVERY OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE CENTER;

- PUBLIC SAFETY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS;
- PROBLEMS SUCH AS LOITERING, TRASH, CRIME, AND MISCONDUCT BY CLUB MEMBERS;
- INADEQUATE STREET LIGHTING AND PUBLIC PARKING SPACES, AS WELL AS THE LACK OF POLICE PATROL AND PROTECTION;

IN ADDITION, THE REQUESTED USE FOR A VARIANCE IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE INITIAL USE OF THE PREMISES FOR A FACILITY TO HELP REHABILITATE VETERANS IN DISTRESS. ALSO, THE PRIVATE CLUB WOULD NOT PROVIDE ANY COMMUNITY SERVICES TO HELP REVITALIZE THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD. FURTHERMORE, IVY CITY DOES NOT NEED A PRIVATE CLUB TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTSIDERS TO PARTY AND DESTROY AN OLD ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THESE COMMENTS , AND I AM AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.