January 26, 2001
306 7th St., NE
Washington, DC 20002-6104

Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St., N.W. Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

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Subject: Application Number 16407

I, Douglas A. Bernard, owner and inhabitant of the property at 306 7th St., N.E., Washington, DC, (Square 864, Lot 57) request to participate as a party to oppose the appeal of the Capital Hill Group to reduce of the number of parking spaces from 276 to 200 at Medlink nursing home and hospital complex whose address is 700 Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington, DC.

My property is within 200 feet of the property that is the subject of the appeal. I have lived at this address since 1979. My property is co-owned with Guido R. Zanni. We both own automobiles and, because our property, unlike some others, has no off-street parking, we are forced to park on the street. The reduction of parking spaces for the property in question would mean that more automobiles would be forced to park on the street than now do.

Currently, because of the large number of vehicles that do park on the local streets in the neighborhood, we are sometimes forced to park as much as one to two blocks away from our home. Not only does that present a burden, but at times is very dangerous. Particularly when we arrive late at night and are forced to walk home through what is at times a somewhat dangerous neighborhood. For years, I have personally witnessed many of those vehicles on countless occasions that park on the 300 block of 7th street belong to either workers or visitors to the nursing home/hospital located on the property in question. In other words, there is a need to increase parking rather than to reduce it. Therefore, reducing the number of parking spaces from 276 to 200 will only serve to reduce the already limited number of parking spaces that are available to homeowners like myself that must utilize on-street parking.

I strongly encourage the Board to deny this modification to application of the Capital Hill Group to reduce the number of off-street parking spaces from 276 to 200. I also encourage the BZA to force the Capital Hill Group to fully open up their underground parking garage to vehicles as the BZA has previously ordered them to do.

Thanking you, I remain

Douglas A. Bernard
202/547-0113

BZA
Case No. 16407
Exhibit No. 74

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16407
EXHIBIT NO.74