January 27, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

D.C. RECEIVED
OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 JAN 30 PM 3:11

RE: Application Number 16407

Dear Sir/Madam:

My husband and I write to request party status on the above application. We are opposed to the modification of application 16407 and support the BZA's reversal of their June 2000 decision impacting parking at Medlink nursing home and hospital on Capitol Hill at 7th and Massachusetts.

We further requst to appear and testify in person (not represented by legal counsel) as a party in the BZA meeting of February 13 to consider this issue.

1) We are 12 year residents of 636 Constitution Avenue NE, a row house at the intersection of Massachusetts and Constitution Avenues, NE.

2) We own the property, jointly as a married couple, with two young children.

3) Our home is appoximatey 175 feet from the hospital complex main property and 100 feet from the above ground parking lot on 7th street.

4) We are solely dependent on street parking, as are all the residents of the 600 block of Constitution and Massachusetts avenues, since our homes have no back alley with parking spaces. Since we both work outside the home, the parking siutation impacts our ability to make a living since being able to use our cars at will without having to worry if we are going to be able to park our cars near our home is essential. Since our children, as well as other neighborhood children, play daily in and around the triangular park at Mass and Const, we are acutely aware of the environmental impact that Medlink employee and visitors parking on the streets have both in terms of inceased trash and pollution with cars regularly idling on 7th street, waiting for pick-ups or drop offs when parking is unavailable. We have also felt the impact of the parking problem socially, particulary in the last 18 months, and have been forced at night to park illegally so as to not put ourselves in an unsafe situation having to park several blocks away.

5) We are uniquely qualified for party status, for two reasons a) our home is the closest residence facing the 7th street, main entrance and above ground parking and b) due to our home's location and our workshedules (R.Thoresen is self-employed with a flexible work schedule) we are in the best position to regularly observe -- at different times of the day and night -- the parking situation and events related to the Medlink complex.

a) Location/proximity: Our home is the closest residence to the 7th street side of the Medlink complex and, like no other, has 12 windows that have a direct view of the Medlink property. We can and do see what goes on there easily and regularly, and there is nothing that could happen or be done to that property that would not directly impact us.
b) Observation position: Due to R. Thoresen's flexible work schedule and the fact that he works mainly on Capitol Hill, he is in and out the house all day long; he also regularly woks outside maintaining the park area. Consequently, we again have a direct view of the parking situation, in addition to what we personally experience like other neighbors.

Our own direct experience includes: having much more difficulty parking in the last 18 months; specifically experiencing more daytime parking problems since last summer when the 7th street change occured; having to park 2-3 blocks beyond our own block both in the daytime and at night; and not being able to park on 7th street due to the 3 hr limit. Due to the location of our home and the frequency that we are outside, we have also been in the position to observe: Medlink employees (or what look like employees) parking on Mass avenue and then walking into the

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Medlink building; and, employees or visitors double parking and idling their cars for up to an hour on 7th street while waiting pick up and/or drop off passengers.

For the above reasons and the fact that our home is the closest in proximity to the 7th street side of the Medlink complex, we request party status and the permission to testify in person at the hearing. Please do not hesitate to call should you require additional information.

Sincerely.

Lisa M. Tate

Ragnar U. Thoresen

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