ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS / LEDROIT PARK / SHAW / UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

P.O. Box 73710, Washington, DC 20009-3710

March 17, 1999

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
'99 MAR 17 A11:45

Ms. Madeliene H. Dobbins
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Government of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Subject: Resolution Regarding Board of Zoning Adjustment Application Number 16438, for Lot 844, Square 3080, 2021 through 2031 5th Street, NW.

Dear Ms. Dobbins:

At the rescheduled monthly meeting yesterday at which a quorum was present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B (ANC 1B) adopted the resolution regarding the Board of Zoning Adjustment Application Number 16438, for Lot 844, Square 3080, 2021 through 2031 5th Street, NW, by a unanimous vote.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B supports the Howard University / LeDroit Park Initiative and the efforts of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to ensure the preservation of as many of the original homes as possible, as well as the redevelopment of the remaining home sites in accordance with the highest standards of historic compatibility and integrity.

With regard to the parking variance at issue here, ANC 1B is also understanding of and respectful of the position of the LeDroit Park Civic Association, which recognizes the modern condition of parking congestion in the area and the need to provide off-street parking for new development to help alleviate that condition and maximize the desirability of living in this neighborhood.

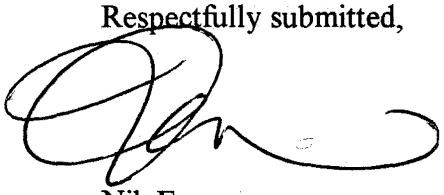
As a result, with all due respect to the efforts and achievements of the HPRB in enhancing this project, ANC 1B supports the position of the LeDroit Park Civic Association, and opposes the parking variance requested in this case. It supports the proposal to provide parking spaces on these lots, with the condition that the applicant be required to screen the parking spaces with landscaping so as to preserve the garden-like ambiance that the HPRB is striving to maintain.

BZA
CASE No. 16438
EXHIBIT No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16438
EXHIBIT NO.23

Adopted this 16th day of March 1999, at the rescheduled monthly meeting of ANC 1B where a quorum was present. Commissioner Lawrence Guyot will represent the Commission at the hearing today.

Respectfully submitted,



Nik Eames
Chairman

cc: ANC 1B Commissioners
Maybelle Bennett, Howard University

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B

Minutes of Meeting of February 10, 1999

Commissioners present:

Tom Coumaris, 1B01
Glenn Melcher, 1B02
M.A. "Doll" Fitzgerald, 1B03
Lawrence Guyot, Jr., 1B04
Nik Eames, 1B05
Sinclair Skinner, 1B06
Charles Glover, 1B07
Gary Imhoff, 1B08
Catherine Hammonds, IB09
Theodore Butler, IB10
Deborah Thomas, IB11
Ida Lowe Blocker, IB12

Prior to the meeting being called to order, and prior to a quorum being present, commissioners introduced themselves to the audience. There was an informal discussion of community concerns with the commissioners who were present. Dion Reid of the 1400 block of W Street discussed numerous problems on his block. Clyde Howard proposed that, with the Green Line Metro opening soon, it is time to end the designation of 13th Street as a commuter street with restricted parking, and to return it to a residential street, with parking on both sides of the street. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Eames at approximately 7:25 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Eames presented an agenda, which was amended on the floor. Mr. Coumaris moved to remove the matter of the proposal of the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea from the agenda. The motion failed by a vote of 6-3; Mr. Coumaris, Mr. Imhoff, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted nay; there was 1 abstention.

Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Melcher seconded, that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission support a zoning variance from parking requirements applied for by Howard University for a single family dwelling and one flat at 2031 5th Street, NW. The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0; Ms. Fitzgerald abstained.

Mr. Butler moved that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission support an application for a special variance from the National Association for Community Empowerment for 1412 Chapin Street, NW. Since no representative of the NACE was present to make a presentation, and the Mr. Butler and Mr. Guyot said that Board of Zoning Adjustment had directed the NACE to make a presentation to the ANC, discussion centered around whether to postpone consideration of the matter until a presentation could be made. Mr. Skinner moved, and Mr. Guyot seconded, that the matter be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting, provided that a special meeting of the ANC would be called if the NACE application were scheduled for a hearing before the BZA prior to our next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Robert O. Goodman, on behalf of The Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, made a presentation of their application to permit a chancery use in an R-5-C District at 2020 16th Street, NW. Commissioner Eleanor Johnson of ANC 1C presented that Commission's opposition to the chancery. Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Skinner seconded, a motion that ANC 1B support the chancery. Mr. Coumaris moved, and Mr. Melcher seconded, that the motion be tabled. The motion to table failed by a vote of 9-3; Messrs. Coumaris, Melcher, and Imhoff voted nay. After further discussion, the motion to support the application was approved by a vote of 6-3 with 3 abstentions; Messrs. Melcher, Coumaris, and Imhoff voted nay; Messrs. Glover and Eames and Ms. Fitzgerald abstained.

Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham made a presentation about parking and transportation issues in Ward One, and on how to provide additional parking spaces in areas where parking is very scarce, and

about his parking/transportation task force. Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Skinner seconded, that ANC 1B join in the task force, and that Mr. Eames accept a position as co-chair of the task force, with the provision that he represent the interests of the Commission's area and population. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Melcher moved, and Mr. Guyot seconded, that the Commission support Mr. Graham's resolution to rename the alley next to Ben's Chili Bowl as Ben's Way. The motion passed 11-0; Ms. Blocker abstained.

Mr. Guyot said that the ANC would hold a meeting of all holders of liquor licenses within the Commission's boundaries in order to deal with issues of trash, noise, public nuisances, and other issues, and moved, with Mr. Skinner's second, that all ANC approvals of licenses be conditioned upon the licensee's agreement to attend such a meeting. Mr. Melcher offered a friendly amendment, which was accepted, that all applicants' letters of agreement, not only to attend such a meeting but also agreeing to work with the community to ameliorate any concerns, will be attached to any letters that the ANC sends to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, and will establish a record of such an agreement.

The Commission then heard presentations from Mr. Henry's U Street, proprietors of Tango Tango at 1344 U Street, NW; Erico Entertainment, Inc., 1334 U Street, NW; Prince Hall Free Mason and Eastern Star, 1000 U Street, NW; and Velvet Lounge, 915 U Street, NW. Votes were then taken to support applications from these restaurants. Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Butler seconded, approval of the application of Tango Tango, which passed by a vote of 8-4, with 1 abstention. Mr. Melcher moved, and Mr. Skinner seconded, approval of the application of Erico Entertainment, which passed unanimously. Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Skinner seconded, approval of the application of the Prince Hall Masons, which passed unanimously. Mr. Guyot moved approval of the application of the Velvet Lounge, which passed by a vote of 11-0; Mr. Skinner abstained.

Representatives of the Songhai Restaurant, 1211 U Street, NW; and the Abyssinia Restaurant, 1847 14th Street, NW, were not present at the meeting. Mr. Guyot proposed that their applications be approved under the condition that they agree to attend the meeting of liquor licenses previously discussed, and that they agree to work with the community to ameliorate community concerns. With that provision, Mr. Guyot moved, and Ms. Blocker seconded, approval of the application of the Songhai Restaurant, which passed by a vote of 10-0, with Mr. Coumaris abstaining; Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Skinner seconded, approval of the application of the Abyssinia Restaurant; which passed by a vote of 7-0, with 3 abstentions from Messrs. Melcher, Coumaris, and Skinner.

Mr. Mark Barnes of Republic Gardens presented to the Commission his early plans for expansion of that establishment, explaining that he hoped to expand the business's restaurant offerings by expanding into the building next door. Mr. Guyot moved, and Mr. Imhoff seconded, that the Commission support the concept of the Republic Garden's expansion, with the understanding that the Republic Gardens will return to the Commission at the appropriate time for any future approvals. The motion was approved unanimously.

A representative of Portugal Restaurant, 1914 4th Street, NW, asked the ANC to support a provisional 45-day liquor license, while he applied for a permanent license. After several questions about the operation of the business and about the procedure for provisional licenses, Mr. moved, and Mr. seconded, that the ANC approve of the provisional license. The motion was approved

Mr. Skinner moved that the minutes of the January 1999 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.