LANITA WALKER

'99 SEP 28 P 3:22

September 27, 1999

OF
DISTR

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in preparation for a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 1999, regarding the property located at 439 15th Street, SE, Washington, DC. The square number for this property is 1062, and the lot number is 804. The applicant number is 16486. My now deceased daughter, Tosha Walker, purchased this property. I am the administrator of her estate.

My daughter chose to purchase a house in this Victorian neighborhood because of its character, beauty, diversity and sense of community solidarity. She possessed a particular interest in architecture and even considered it as a major during her undergraduate studies. The masonry, workmanship and eclectic style of the homes found in this neighborhood especially impressed her.

Tosha felt that her particular home was unique because, on that street, it was one of the few with a carriage house. She took a great deal of pride in her home. She was equally excited about upgrading the landscaping as she was about decorating the interior.

Because of Tosha's appreciation for architecture, she was quite saddened by the condition of the carriage house, which is over forty years old. She was most concerned with the foundation, which was failing, causing the entire structure to be unsafe. She was compelled to act with a sense of urgency to safeguard the community and those who entered and exited the home. In addition, she did not want any transient individuals to attempt to occupy that portion of the property and cause disruptions to neighbors.

In light of the situation, Tosha hired a structural contractor. He was generally struck by the overall poor condition of the building, the decay of the south wall, and the imminent danger of future damage. The first priority was to develop a secure and safe foundation. It was equally important, however, to restore the building according to its original architectural character. This was to include using old brick as the facing on the carriage house. Any new materials were to be compatible with the original organizational design. Tosha's objective was to reinstate the standard architectural integrity of the home and to maintain the sense of community solidarity. It is my intent and objective to complete my daughter's vision. I hope to accomplish these tasks with the advice of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. I look forward to your anticipated assistance.

Sincerely,

LaNita Walker

LaNita Walker

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BZA
CASE No. 16486
EXHIBIT No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16486
EXHIBIT NO.28