Cambridge House Enterprises, Inc.

517 C Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-5809

202-543-4455

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January 30, 2000

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning
Suite 210
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC

RE: BZA Application No. 16544

Dear Ms. Kress:

This letter is to express the strong support of the application for a variance to permit the construction of two garages at 12 and 16 7th Street, NE. Cambridge House Enterprises, Inc. owns 45 rental units in two apartment buildings, located at 21 Sixth Street, NE and 618 A Street, SE. Both properties are within one block of the proposed location of the two new garages.

Unfortunately, several of our tenants in recent years have been the victims of crime. This obviously is a deterrent to the rental of apartment units. Anything that can be done to improve the safety of the neighborhood is strongly supported by this company. We believe that the construction of the two garages will do just that. Homeowners will be more likely to park in the rear of their homes if garages exist. For this reason, garages lead to more use of the alleys. The more traffic in the alleys, the less likely it is for would-be criminals to take advantage of the lack of traffic.

BZA
Case No. 16544
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16544
EXHIBIT NO.29

We also are very aware that many of the neighboring properties have garages and carriage houses. Garages and carriage houses on the alleys are found everywhere on Capitol Hill and lend to the charm of the neighborhood. New homeowners who are contributing to the improvement of the neighborhood should be entitled to a structure that is already common and serves a most useful function.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Williams
Secretary

cc: Ms. Janet Schmidt, ANC 6-A
Mr. Lyle Schauer, Capitol Hill Restoration Society