February 14, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

SUBJECT: Application Number 16554

We, Lois D. Rice, Rosalie Auster and Simon Auster, and Irving M. Panzer, resident owners at 2332, 2334 and 2336 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, are requesting party status and to appear in opposition to the application of James H. and Julie P. Edmonds for a Special Exception for 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, to operate a music school and conduct under its auspices, a recital hall. The application is scheduled to be heard by the Board of Zoning Adjustment on Wednesday, March 1, 2000. We will appear in person, not through legal counsel.

Our homes, identified above, are located five, six and seven houses north of Barney House, the site of the proposed exception.

The proposed use of Barney House at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, would further erode the residential character of the area, already threatened by the many chanceries and other non-residential embassy buildings. The proposed use will increase traffic where there are already two daily traffic tie-ups. It is also more than likely to increase the risk of accidents as cars stop in the right-turn lane for 23rd Street to drop off students and those attending recitals.

The proposed use will also increase the demand for on-street parking spaces, particularly for the few that are closer to Barney House, in an already impacted neighborhood; while Barney House does have a small parking area, and the applicant claims to have arranged for additional parking at The Fairfax Hotel, two long, avenue blocks south of Sheridan Circle, realistically, it is more convenient to park on the street above Sheridan Circle, not to speak of being safer, than to struggle backing in or out of a small area on Sheridan Circle, or walk those two blocks from the hotel and have to cross Massachusetts Avenue at the Florida Avenue/22nd Street intersection.

As homeowners without off-street parking, it is already often necessary to park as much as 3 blocks away from our homes because the few legal spaces are occupied by non-residents. For the same reason, contractors and service people have refused to work at our homes. Property values, already affected by the parking situation, will be further adversely affected by these problems.

The Edmonds' have already demonstrated the shallowness of their commitment to good citizenship and neighborhood responsibility by failing to clear any of the public walk in front of Barney House after all of this years' snow or ice storms. As of this writing (February 13), after several days of warm weather had melted most of the snow in the area, that walk is still covered by a strip of ice running the length of the house frontage. This is more than a little troubling insofar as the presence of several inches of slippery packed snow and ice remaining from the storm of the previous week was called to the attention of the Edmonds' at the ANC meeting on February 9, and Mr. Edmonds apologized to me for it after the meeting, yet clearly, nothing was done about it.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois D. Rice

Simon Auster

Rosalie Auster

Irving M. Panzer

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BZA
Case No. 16554
Exhibit No. 22

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16554
EXHIBIT NO.22