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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FRIENDS OF ALICE PIKE BARNEY STUDIO HOUSE, INC.



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February 29, 2000

The Honorable Sheila Cross-Reid
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Application No. 16554
2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Dear Ms. Cross-Reid:

The Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House find that the subject application for a Special Exception will have no adverse effect on the Alice Pike Barney Studio House, a designated D.C. Historic Landmark located at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The Friends is a private, non-profit preservation organization [501(c)(3)] not affiliated with the current property owners.

The Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc., was formed in 1994 to preserve and protect a unique historic building. Studio House was designed for Alice Pike Barney by local architect Waddy Butler Wood and built in 1903 as both a residence and a center for the visual and performing arts. Mrs. Barney lived in the house until 1926, and was host to notables from the worlds of government and the arts including Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, and celebrities such as Enrico Caruso and Sarah Bernhardt.

In 1991 the Smithsonian Institution, owner of Studio House since 1960, closed the building to the public. In 1994, the Friends was formed by a group of private citizens to preserve the building as a house museum focused on Mrs. Barney's legacy. While the property was still owned by the Smithsonian Institution, the Friends drew public attention to the property and was instrumental in the protection of the building's significant interior floors, which are now listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites and protected under the District's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Our original goal of a public/private partnership with the Smithsonian to make the house accessible again was not achieved and in 1999, the Smithsonian sold the property to its current owners.

BZA
CASE No. 16554
EXHIBIT No. 46

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16554
EXHIBIT NO.46

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