February 28,200

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Government of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street n.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 2001

RE: Application # 16558: Clare Parmalee (5308 39th Street, N.W.; Square 1751, Lot 14) request for variance from Section 2001.3 for a nonconforming structure and from Section 404.1 for minimum rear yard setback.

Dear Ms. Kress, FAIA:

We live at 3903 Jocelyn Street almost directly across Jocelyn Street from the side yard of Clare Parmalee's house on the S.W. corner of Jocelyn Street at 39th Street N.W.

We are writing to express our opinion about variance applications and Ms. Parmalee's in particular. Presumably there is a solid foundation in law and practice for establishing zoning regulations. We agree with these principles and therefore - on principle- oppose variances unless for extreme cases of hardship, handicap or adverse site or soil conditions.

Our second concern is that of maintaining the visual appeal and integrity of our neighborhood. Jocelyn Street, and the surrounding neighborhood, has for the most part, retained its character and desirability; it is a very pleasant place to live. Many of the homes have additions, including our own, that have been constructed within the framework of the existing zoning requirements and with great respect for the architectural heritage of the street and without requiring variances.

Our understanding is that the BZA is in place to work with all our neighborhoods in the District of Columbia to make the District a more desirable and attractive place to live. Zoning variances must be taken very seriously; we all can point to examples which have violated the integrity of a property and had a negative impact on the surrounding homes. We do not wish that to happen. We believe that the BZA should enforce the regulations granting variances only in extreme cases, as set out in the zoning laws. We believe that should we grant a variance to one neighbor, it will be easier for other residents to seek variances....and where does one stop?

Ms. Parmalee is a good neighbor and a friend; it has not been easy to make this decision to protest this variance, but we believe the greater good of the neighborhood and the continued value of all the homes in this area must be the first consideration.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this application for a variance and we know that our concerns will be seriously considered by your board. Our neighborhood is a wonderful and unique place to live and we trust your decision on this issue will relect due diligence on this matter.

Yours truly,

Pamela J. Taylor

Ronald E. Taylor

FEB 28 AM 11:06

BZA
Case No. 16558
Exhibit No. 22

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.16558
EXHIBIT NO.22