GREENBERG
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ZONING
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March 8, 2000

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director
The Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

16559

Re: The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation/The Field School and the Proposed Traffic Light at the Intersection of Foxhall Road and W Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Kress:

Enclosed is my letter to Mr. Kenneth Laden, Administrator of Office of Intermodal Planning, alerting him that 27 years ago, the District Government was adamant for safety reasons that no traffic light be installed at the intersection of Foxhall Road and W Streets. I now understand that to accommodate the Field School the District is proposing to install such a light notwithstanding that the dangers of such a light have not been nor can be alleviated. I gather the reason for this is that to receive FHA funding a warrant must have two traffic lights and to receive funding for the traffic light at White Haven and Foxhall Road, which is most definitely needed, a second light (which will be extremely dangerous) is being proposed for the intersection of Foxhall Road and W Street, which is less than a quarter of a mile away from the White Haven light. The safety and well-being of the citizens of the District of Columbia must come first.

Very truly yours,

Jeffry R. Dwyer, Esq.

JRD/bwm
Enclosure

cc: Katherine Patterson

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 73

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.73

GREENBERG
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
TRAURIG

March 3, 2000

Mr. Kenneth Laden
Administrator
Office of Intermodal Planning
2000 14th Street, N.W.
Sixth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20009

Re: Traffic Light at the Intersection of
Foxhall Road and W Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Laden:

Having received no responses from my phone calls to you and Mr. Payne over the last several days, I have decided to write this letter. Having just returned to Washington, D.C., where I have maintained my house at 2203 Foxhall Road (which is at the corner of Foxhall Road and W Street) for the last 27 years, I have been informed by neighbors that the District Government has decided to place a traffic signal light at the above-referenced intersection.

Twenty-seven years ago when I purchased my house I was extremely annoyed with the speed of traffic on Foxhall Road which was causing a problem of my leaving my driveway, which accesses Foxhall Road. I organized a meeting with the residents of Foxhall Road and W Street and circulated a petition which I brought down to the Traffic Signal Department of D.C. requesting that a traffic light be installed on Foxhall and W Street to slow traffic. We met with the then head of the Department whose name I cannot remember. He heard our requests and the Department denied the placing of a traffic light for the following reasons:

1. There was insufficient vehicular traffic coming off W Street onto Foxhall Road in that the left side of W Street is a dead end and the right side had insufficient houses and most people would take the McArthur Boulevard thoroughfare from W Street and not cross over from McArthur through W Street up to Foxhall Road.

2. The intersection of Foxhall Road and W Street is at the bottom of a steep curving incline coming north to south which even with a warning signal would not give

motorists sufficient time to stop and break in that the one-lane road at that point is curved and a motorist would not be able to see the oncoming traffic light until too late. Your department was particularly fearful that snow or rain would exacerbate accidents with a traffic light. Because Foxhall Road is a two-lane highway there would be no maneuverability and people would be skidding and sliding into neighbor's houses and lawns.

3. My driveway and my next door neighbor's (at 2205 Foxhall Road) are too close to the intersection and a traffic light would actually impede our making a left-hand turn onto Foxhall Road in that traffic would be stopped at the light and there would be no way to make that left-hand turn out of the driveways.

The Department agreed with our concerns that speeding was an issue on Foxhall Road because it was a connecting road from Virginia to Maryland. From a safety feature, they recommended increased police surveillance and radar traps which have been done over the past 27 years to decrease speeding and accidents on that road and intersection.

All of those arguments made sense to the citizens' coalition. We hired a traffic consultant who agreed with the Department's safety reasons for turning down a light at that intersection and we were impressed with the professionalism and expertise of the District's Traffic Department, and their concern in protecting the safety of District residents.

What facts have changed the situation which now has the District proposing a traffic light at this intersection? If anything, traffic off W Street will be substantially less in that George Washington University has agreed to close the main entrance at the Mt. Vernon campus on Foxhall Road and move it to White Haven Parkway, which is a very safe intersection in that it is both a level intersection with no incline and Foxhall Road at that intersection is a four-lane road. Clearly, with the increased traffic at the intersection of White Haven and Foxhall Road due to St. Patrick's School and George Washington moving the Mt. Vernon entrance to White Haven, that intersection should justify a traffic light, not the intersection of Foxhall Road and W Street, which because of its steep winding curve will generate more traffic accidents, and as your Department said 27 years ago, cause myself and my next door neighbor a major problem in leaving our driveways to make a left-hand turn onto Foxhall Road. Over the past 27 years, I have had several cars speeding down Foxhall Road come into my front yard with one of them hitting a tree.

Your Department's reasons 27 years ago for not putting a traffic light at this intersection are still sound and reasonable and I would seriously question and want to see

studies as to why this decision is now being changed for the benefit of the residents who have lived here for years. I would like to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Jeffry R. Dwyer

JRD/bwm

cc: Mayor Anthony Williams