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Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
July 18, 2000

I am pleased to have this statement read today before the members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment on behalf of Georgetown University, and I regret that I could not appear in person.

I am Debbi Hurd Baptist, President & CEO of City *First* Bank of DC, the City's newest commercial bank and the only community development bank operating in the District of Columbia to provide banking services to the underserved residents of the City.

You may know Georgetown as an inner city institution of higher education that has been a source for academic instruction for over 100 years. Our bank views Georgetown as a school deeply committed to finding creative ways to positively expand its boundaries.

Over 3 years ago, the President & Vice President of Urban Affairs decided it was time to invest in the DC community. They committed $1.0 million to purchase shares in a bank that was not yet opened to serve households that traditional banks had ignored. Today as a result of Georgetown's early commitment, City *First* Bank raised over $9.5 million to open and in 18 months, has an asset base exceeding $27.5 million.

Georgetown's investment has allowed us to serve over 700 businesses and households on the DC area, providing loans, savings and checking accounts and a variety of cash management services. Georgetown's commitment to the District and positive impact on the District's economy cannot be overlooked as the college seeks to physically expand beyond its current footprint.

It is my hope that you will consider Georgetown as an innovative institution, deeply committed to finding ways to work with the City to make it a better place to live, work and get an education. Also, I hope that you will consider Georgetown just like they considered us, a viable business; and in the case of Georgetown, one that needs to be encouraged to keep more of its investment in the District.

I thank you again for the opportunity to speak before you and urge that you favorably consider the BZA request before you.

Respectfully yours,

Debbi Hurd Baptist

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BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 139

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.139