OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH

727 FIFTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-289-7771

September 7, 2000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ZONING
'00 SEP 11 P 3:50

District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

16596 BAB.

Re: Board of Zoning Application ~~#16569;~~
770 5th Street, N.W.

Dear Members of the Board:

I am the pastor of St. Mary's Church located across 5th Street from 770 5th Street, N.W., which is proposed to be developed with a new 209 unit apartment building. Although St. Mary's Church has been an institution in this neighborhood for a long time, most of its parishioners have left the neighborhood. We continue to maintain strong ties with the neighborhood, however, and we provide a number of services for the Chinese community which is based here. Our former school building houses, rent-free, the Office of Asian Affairs, operated by the D.C. Urban League. From 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each morning there are classes teaching English, how to apply for American citizenship, how to apply for a job, etc. We also offer weekly senior citizens luncheons. I would also emphasize the convenience of the location of the proposed project. The proposed building is located three blocks from Interstate 395 north and one block from the D Street tunnel leading to I395 south for those traveling by car. Trains at Union Station are one Metro stop away and Reagan National Airport is also conveniently accessible via the Gallery Place Metro for air travel.

We strongly support the proposed project which we believe will strengthen the neighborhood. Although the neighborhood has made great strides in recent years, more progress is needed and we firmly believe that the proposed project will probably turn the corner on the neighborhood's revitalization. The project will bring new residents as well as customers for many of our Chinese stores and residents. This will benefit the Chinese community here.

Thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

Sincerely,

Father David Conway

(Reverend) David Conway

BZA
Case No. 16596
Exhibit No. 31

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16596
EXHIBIT NO.31