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January 5, 2001

Ms. Shelia Cross Reid, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Room 910
Washington, DC 20001

BZA
Case No. 16618
Exhibit No. 146

Dear Ms Reid:

I write as a neighbor of the Phillips Collection and also as a member of its Board.

1. *Perspective as a neighbor*: I live on the 2100 block of R Street, west of Florida on the square just west of the Phillips Collection and the Cosmos Club. As you know, it is a neighborhood of mixed use. In addition to residences, there are numerous embassies, art galleries, some small offices, Nora's Restaurant and other commercial activities. I am well aware of the activities of the Phillips, and do not believe that they are a significant contributor to traffic, parking, noise or other problems in the neighborhood. Admittedly, there may be some problems with respect to the neighbors immediately across 21st Street from the Phillips, but those problems are not going to be aggravated by the proposed expansion of the Phillips.

   In fact the expansion will reduce noise, traffic and parking problems by providing additional underground parking for employees and visitors who now park on the street. Improved loading docks will reduce the noise and congestion caused by catering trucks which now sometimes have to use the street to load and unload. As for parking, the Phillips has offered to have all valet parking for its events done in off-street lots and garages.

2. *Perspective as a Phillips board member*: There is a belief in the neighborhood that the proposed expansion will dramatically increase the traffic and activity at the Phillips. Nothing could be further from the truth. I

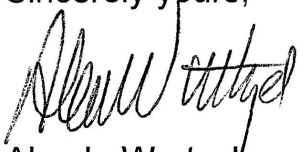
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District of Columbia
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can say as a member of the Board that the purpose of the expansion is ***not*** to add to the current schedule of exhibitions, dinners or lectures for our members or our corporate patrons, or to increase the use of the facility as a restaurant or as a public meeting place. The principal purpose is to create a center for the study and appreciation of modern art. This was a dream of Duncan Phillips and of his son, who succeeded him as the curator. Until now this had not been financially feasible, but new leadership at the Museum is making it possible.

As you well know, the Phillips is one of the crown jewels of the District of Columbia and of the nation. It has been in this location since 1920, and has been a significant contributor to the business and cultural vibrancy of the Du Pont Circle area. It would be a shame for a handful of people who live across the street to be able to block the reasonable and carefully-controlled expansion of one to the area's greatest attractions simply because they do not want this facility in their back (or front) yard.

All of the opponents purchased their property well after the museum was established and knew full well the current level of museum activity before they purchased. I urge the BZA to approve this application for the health of the neighborhood, the City and the cultural vitality of the nation.

Sincerely yours,



Alan L. Wurtzel