COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

May 7, 2001

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

Ref: Application No. 16618

Dear Members of the Board:

I write to you as a long-time supporter of residential neighborhoods and affordable housing. Notwithstanding the importance of the Phillips Collection to the city, Ward 2 and the Dupont Circle neighborhood, I must voice my concern over the proposed expansion of the Phillips Collection - an expansion that will serve to further reduce the limited affordable housing stock in the Dupont Circle neighborhood.

The residential neighborhood near the Phillips Collection offers a diverse mix of housing stock and facilities serving non-residential uses. Despite the consistent pressures of commuter traffic, shortages of available legal parking and threats of encroachment upon the neighborhood's residential character, efforts to preserve a viable, yet fragile, residential-commercial balance have largely succeeded. The proposed Phillips Collection expansion will increase the significant pressures of traffic, parking and commercial expansion on this community's already limited affordable housing stock, thus upsetting the fragile balance.

I urge the Board to recognize the absolute need to coordinate and communicate with the community leaders, such as the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, in an effort to achieve a solution that addresses the needs of all the members of this diverse community.

Sincerely,

Carol Schwartz,
Councilmember At-Large

CS/jr

BZA
Case No. 16618
Exhibit No. 162

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16618
EXHIBIT NO.162