December 9, 2001

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA Director
Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St., NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Application Number 16619

Dear Ms. Kress:

We are writing today to urge the Board of Zoning to not approve the application of Romano Romani and Thomas D. Parry to receive a use variance for the property at 233 Constitution Avenue, NE.

We own and live in a home at 131 3rd St. NE, across the street from the property in question, and believe that granting this variance would threaten the residential character of our neighborhood.

At its core, a residential neighborhood is home to its residents, who share a common interest in keeping it safe, clean, and comfortable. For this reason it is in the interest of neighbors who reside in an area to respect their common space and the rights of their neighbors.

Romani and Parry have been operating their lobbying business out of a residentially zoned property for several years now, flouting DC zoning law and in doing so, openly disrespecting their neighbors. Additionally, they have repeatedly delayed scheduled hearings on this issue. These acts convince us that Romani and Parry could care less about the residents of this neighborhood, and the neighborhood itself. The exploitive attitude and behavior they have consistently displayed towards their neighbors is a profound threat to the residential character of our street. Further, rewarding Romani and Parry for this behavior by granting them a zoning variance seems unjust to the residents of this neighborhood.

While granting Romani and Parry a zoning variance threatens the residential nature of our neighborhood by legitimizing their long-time disregard of the law and the rights of their neighbors, these are not the only threats to the residential nature of the community such a decision would carry. If Romani and Parry are granted a variance, we fear that the owners of the business being run out of the residentially zoned property at 301 Constitution Avenue will be encouraged to apply for a zoning variance as well. Being able to cite Romani and Parry's successful application as precedent would certainly strengthen their case.

The closing of streets around the US Capitol has meant the re-routing of truck and other vehicle traffic to 3rd St. NE, raising traffic volume and noise to levels that far exceed

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those of surrounding residential streets. This is also a threat to the residential nature of our neighborhood, but one that is far more justified than that posed by Romani and Parry.

Because of the increased traffic volume and noise, the people of this community are already challenged in our efforts to keep our neighborhood's residential character. Please don't further jeopardize it by granting a zoning variance to those who have consistently preyed on the neighborhood and will surely continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Chafee

Samuel J. Fromartz