District of Columbia Commission on Aging
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 900S
Washington, D.C. 20001

OCT 24 AM 9:34

October 24, 2000

BZA # 16630

Shelia Cross-Reed
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
One Judiciary Square
441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 230
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am Alethea Campbell, Chairperson for the DC Commission on Aging and a long time resident and activist of Ward 8 . The D. C .Office on Aging recognizes the need for wellness centers in the District of Columbia and its goal is to establish a center in every Ward of the District. A wellness center for the elderly residents for Ward 8 is long past due.

The seniors in Ward 8, the Mini-Commission on Aging, the local AARP chapter, the Petey Green Senior Club, several church- based groups, several ANCs and the Police Advisory Council have all participated in various public meetings voicing their concerns about what this center should look like, its location, the activities and services that should be provided.

A few decades ago, as an ANC Commissioner, I came before this agency to support the present R5 zoning of this property because services for the elderly were a part of that plan. Our former school board member and I, along with three other founders of the Congress Heights Civic Association, jointly entered into a covenant on this property that would ensure that housing and services for the elderly would be placed on this property. Now decades later, we have some housing and services for the youth, but no wellness, education and social activities for the elderly.

BZA
Case No. 16630
Exhibit No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16630
EXHIBIT NO.28

The surrounding single family homes, daycare services, schools and churches, provide the desired environment for this center. It is on a major bus line. The community welcomes this facility and is waiting for it. The question most likely to be asked by members of the Ward 8 Mini-Commission on Aging is, "When will our center be completed?"

Today, I ask that the present R5 zoning be eased to allow a Ward 8 Wellness Center on the property at the Southeast corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Savannah Street to accommodate up to100 seniors at one time. We are waiting to utilize its services.

Thank you in advance for supporting the seniors of the District of Columbia in their quest to live healthy, independent lives. If you need further information from me, please give me a call at 202/563-5423.

Sincerely,

Alethea Campbell

Alethea Campbell
Chairperson
D.C. Commission on Aging/Ward 8 resident