Alliance Française de Washington, DC
A non-profit cultural & educational organization
2142 Wyoming Avenue, NW - Washington, DC 20008 - Tel.: 202.234.7941 - Fax: 202.234.0125

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St, NW Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16631

October 19, 2001

The Alliance Française of Washington, 2142 Wyoming Ave, NW, requests a special exception for a private school and a variance to allow a staff or teacher residence in the second story of its accessory garage. There has been some confusion on both sides in our protracted dealings with the BZA, possibly due to our not using legal counsel, but throughout we have sought a simple goal: to upgrade and modernize the existing second floor of our garage to permit housing a staff member or teacher to provide badly needed security for our premises. Toward this goal we have inter alia received ANC and neighborhood support, repeatedly "advertised" upcoming requests to the BZA, completed a parking survey, and established that we are a "contributing structure" in a historical district. We believe that the Alliance is viewed as an asset and indeed an element of security in the neighborhood. Improvement of our dilapidated structure would be well received.

The Alliance provides French language instruction in small classes or individually at this address as well as on a limited basis in Virginia and Maryland suburbs and on-site at various contracting organizations, e.g. the World Bank. The maximum numbers of students and teachers deployed at any given time at 2142 Wyoming Avenue are 70 and 10 respectively. The Alliance also hosts cultural events, lectures and art shows on subjects relating to France and French culture. In a meeting these multiple tasks we have installed and upgraded advanced computer and audio-visual equipment, leading to increasing concerns over the security of our premises. Indeed earlier this year we installed a burglar/fire alarm system. However, we strongly believe that we require the continuing presence of a capable and dedicated staff member or teacher to handle the physical and psychological aspects of potential challenges and crises. We believe the above considerations meet the requirements for a use variance.

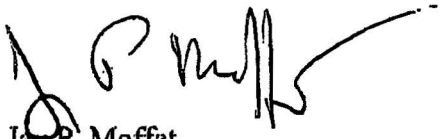
With regard to a special exception the Alliance notes that its property is long and narrow, fronting on Wyoming Avenue and backing-in the form of the accessory garage-

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on the alley that runs behind the entire block. Although delapidated, the structure fits in and blends with similar structures in the alley. It is not believed that the upgrading would substantially impact the integrity of the zoning regulations and certainly would improve the neighborhood.

Yours truly,



Jay P. Moffat
President

Cc: Mr. Arthur Jackson, Office of Planning

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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