COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

January 24, 2001

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W.
Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Georgetown Flea Market, BZA Application Nos. 16642 and 16643

Dear Members of the Board:

As the Councilmember of the Ward in which the Georgetown Flea Market is located and a resident of Georgetown, I would like to take this opportunity to note what an important public asset the flea market is to the community, the residents of Georgetown and the District of Columbia as a whole. The Georgetown Flea Market has brought life and vitality to the area and has distinguished itself as a good public citizen utilizing a public facility. It has been in existence since the fall of 1988 at the Hardy School site and is visited by residents throughout the metropolitan area.

The Council, when confronted with the potential loss of the flea market last year, enacted emergency legislation granting the flea market the right to continue to operate until Mr. Michael Sussman, the owner of the market, could apply for a certificate of occupancy which was necessary to continue the existence of the market. I had hoped that action would give Mr. Sussman a substantial amount of time to resolve the matter in favor of the continuation of the flea market.

I believe the Board of Zoning Adjustment would be well-served to grant either the variance relief or the appeal of the ruling of the Zoning Administrator so as to permit the flea market's continued use. With very few exceptions, the community has shown overwhelming support for the flea market and would hate to experience the loss of a longstanding community-friendly establishment. The relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the zone plan since the use has been in existence for many years with the wholehearted support of the community at large, including the local ANC and community associations. I must say, it is a bit puzzling that after 12 years of operations, a zoning violation suddenly exists as to this use which has been visible and known to and supported by District officials since its inception.

Thank you for giving this matter your most serious consideration. The flea market has been an asset to our community for over 12 years and it would be tragic to see it taken away.

Sincerely,

Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2

BZA
Case No. 16642
Exhibit No. 41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16642
EXHIBIT NO.41