To: Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia

From: Ronald E. Kohler
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Montgomery Village, MD 20886
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January 27, 2001

Re: Board of Zoning application No. 16643

As a Georgetown Flea Market vendor, I am appealing to you to allow the weekly market to continue. I am not an antiques dealer by trade, but a full-time art teacher in Montgomery County. I set up at this market as a hobby. I have sold antiques at various venues: the internet, flea markets in other areas and indoor expo-center antique shows. I find the atmosphere at the Georgetown flea market unequaled.

As a regular weekly flea market—a tradition, there is nothing quite like it between here and New York City. People speak of this market all over the world. The Paris flea market is renowned. When I visited Paris, the first thing I wanted to know was when and where the flea market happens. Isn't that what you want in your community; something that visitors eagerly seek out? Regular patrons, many of which live in Georgetown, bring out-of-town visitors. Many new and one-time visitors speak in foreign tongues. I feel the market offers a wonderful and informal cultural exchange. This is a place where neighbors meet and greet each other; they bring their children and even their dogs. I am privy to many of their conversations; people stand around and talk for 10, 20 even 30-minutes at a time. They drink coffee purchased at Starbucks and Einstein Bagels. I find the experience completely uplifting. I am witness and a participant in

BZA
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Exhibit No. 46

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EXHIBIT NO.46

frequent exchanges of goodwill among people: between vendors and customers and particularly among visitors themselves. Neighbors are getting to know each other better. I truly believe that this Georgetown Flea Market fosters a sense of community that is sorely lacking in urban areas. I have made many friends throughout my two-year experience with this market and now feel a part of something really positive.

Consult Starbucks or Einstein Bagels about their Sunday sales tally, and how different it would be if the flea market no longer existed. At lunch on a market Sunday, I eat at the Safeway salad bar, and after the market day, I shop at there for my weekly groceries, even though I live in suburban Maryland (two blocks from a Giant Foods), because the market is conveniently located just across Wisconsin Ave.

I appeal to your better natures and ask that you allow the market to continue. Instead of conspiring to eliminate the market, better you find ways to accommodate the market and keep a wonderful tradition going.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Kohler, Jr.