MS SHEILA CROSS REID
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
441 FOURTH ST., NW
SUITE 210
WASHINGTON, DC 2001

RE: BP/AMOCO GAS STATION EXPANSION AND ALLEY CLOSING
BZA APPLICATION NO. 16648

Dear Ms. Reid:

On behalf of my Husband and family, who came to Washington D.C., shortly after World War II and settled on residential square 776, at 812 and 814 4th Street N, E., we are submitting this letter to voice our objection to the proposed BP/Amoco gas station expansion and alley closing on our residential square.

This part of near northeast Washington, between 3rd and 4th streets, off H St. was one of the few affordable and available neighborhoods that African American's could live. The H St. corridor was in its glory days. All your needs and wants could be obtain along the corridor. At that time African Americans had little choice since the Capital City, for the most part was still functioning as a segregated southern town.

Through the Grace of God, My husband and I bought two houses and were able to raise and educate five children. We live through the glory days of the neighborhood, the racial strife, the riots, the decay, the unfilled promise of urban renewal, and we plan on living through the rebirth and revitalization.

We are very proud of our neighborhood. We don't want to see an outside developer with no apparent sense of community and respect for the people that are already here, to come in a make a huge mess for us to deal with, all in the name of their corporate profits.

The BP/Amoco people had not consulted the residents and owners of property on square 776 prior to attempting to steamroll their project through. They have disrespected and ignored our concerns and opposition to this expansion and proposed alleyway closing.

We strongly oppose BP/Amoco planned alley closing and expansion for several reasons. One, the current gas station is poorly managed and has been a source of drug activity, crime, trash, and toxic waste; abandon cars and neighborhood decay for years. It has ruined our quality of life on square 776. They have not been good neighbors. An expansion of this terrible and mismanaged gas station would certainly make matters worst. Two, they have ignored our concerns over the years and has since purchased almost three forth of square 776. They also want to close most of our main alleyway, thus cutting us off and hampering city services from DPW trash trucks, and emergency vehicles (police and fire). Three, this proposed expansion is certainly not like the character of the H St corridor in its glory days. We didn't have the essence of a large truck and bus depot, with all of its fumes and potential explosion hazards.

Most importantly, their proposal to cut off and reconfigure our alley way will limit access to the rear of our houses and parking areas, This is certainly not right. We are taxpayers and voting citizens who have lived on the square for a long time. We have rights too. They should not be allowed to make our lives miserable for the sake of their own greed. Please make them clean up and manage the existing site properly.

Do not let them expand on our square nor allow them to close or change our alleyway.

Your assistant in this matter is appreciated.
Mae Ruth McCrea
Thank You
Signed
Mae Ruth McCrea
Mackie McCrea Sr.
Mackie McCrea Sr.

BZA
Case No. 16648
Exhibit No. 52

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16648
EXHIBIT NO.52