April 23, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application #16650

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 APR 27 PM 1:15

Dear Board of Zoning Members:

As a resident in the Columbia Heights neighborhood since 1978, I have been involved in many community meetings and served on a couple of Community Boards. With these efforts, Columbia Heights has become one of the most up and coming areas of the city. We have fought for police involvement/through establishing a "Crime Watch" group, trash and recycling collections, parking enforcement, and proper building permit usage, to name a few.

Through all of these issues, the Southwest Church of Christ has not contributed one member to fight these problems in our community. This conduct goes to the fundamental reason for the community opposition of the proposed application #16650 for special exception for 1305-07 Irving Street, NW, requested by the Church.

As I watched the meeting conducted by the Board on April 3, 2001, it was clear that the Board shared some concerns about the inadequate planning exhibited by the Church. The community has these same frustration because it is unclear to us what the real plan is. It is very clear that the Church has no expertise in partnering and managing a facility like this, even with the help of Parents Striving for Joy, Inc.. And what experience does Parents Striving for Joy have in matters of similar responsibility.

In short, please accept this letter as a request to reject the above application, by doing so you would be sending a message that every idea needs more than sympathy but a strong business plan and community endorsement.

**Areas of concern:**
--Non involvement in community issues over the years
--Lack of expertise in project management of similar facilities
--A "plan as you go" approach to a business plan.
--Lack of parking concerns
--Saturation of similar facilities in area

Sincerely,

Deland Robin Harrod
1242 Irving Street,
Northwest
Washington, DC 20010
202.797.7413

BZA
Case No. 16650
Exhibit No. 52

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16650
EXHIBIT NO.52