Vicky Leonard-Chambers
ANC Commissioner, 5C04
2218 Flagler Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001

February 27, 2001

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Mr. Robert Stockwell
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20001

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 727-6072

Re: Application Number 16675 -- Application of St. George's Episcopal Church, pursuant to 11 DCMR 3103.2, under Subsection 403.2 for a variance from the lot occupancy limitation to add an addition to an existing church building over a plaza connecting a townhouse annex to serve as a place of worship and an outreach program to serve families and the youth in an R-4 District at premises 160 U Street, N.W. (Lots 38 and 90, Square 3114).

Dear Mr. Stockwell:

At its February 21, 2001 meeting, ANC 5C voted to support the St. George's aforementioned application. Following standard policy, you should have a letter from ANC 5C Chairman James D. Berry stating this fact. As the ANC Commissioner in which St. George's Church is located, I want to separately express my **support** for the church's zoning application so that it can erect an addition, as well as my desire that the Board strongly encourage St. George's Church to use its contractually-arranged off-street parking area proactively, rather than reactively.

St. George's Church was built before off-street parking requirements for new structures were established in Washington, D.C. The church, therefore, has no off-street parking for its congregation. Because the demand for on-street parking during Sunday church service hours is high (there are two other churches within 1 ½ blocks St. George's that also have large congregations and roughly two dozen single-family homes within a one-block radius from St. George's have no off-street parking), St. George's Church sought and received permission from the Gage-Eckington Elementary School to use its paved parking area for overflow parking for parishioners attending Sunday services.

Instead of using the school's parking area for overflow, I strongly believe that St. George's Church should encourage parishioners in good health to use the Gage-Eckington School parking lot before seeking on-street parking. Such a strategy will not only increase the likelihood that residents who live near the church will be able to find on-street parking when returning home from Sunday morning errands, but will also improve the odds that elderly parishioners who choose to drive to church will find nearby on-street parking. In addition, the Old Gage School, which is located one-half block from St. George's, will be converted to provide 57 units of senior housing. If the number of senior residents with vehicles in this future complex exceeds the number of parking spaces the development plan provides (which will be the minimum required), it will also be in this group's best interests that St. George's make proactive use of its parking agreement with Gage-Eckington School.

Sincerely,

Vicky Leonard-Chambers

Vicky Leonard-Chambers
Commissioner, ANC 5C04

BZA
Case No. 16675
Exhibit No. 37

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16675
EXHIBIT NO.37