

Historic Takoma, Inc.

"Preserving the Heritage of Takoma Park-MD and Takoma-DC"

June 21, 2001

Honorable Sheila Reid, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA application #16676

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Dear Chairman Reid and Members:

I am writing to request your to postponement the hearing on the proposed Missouri Road townhouse development, (BZA application No. 16676), set for this coming Tuesday, June 26.

The proposed townhouse site sits between two significant, historic buildings -- the old Military Road School, which educated African-American students from the mid 1800s to 1953 -- and a classic 100-plus year-old Victorian home owned by the Lightfoot family. In between is land that the National Park Service owns, which leads to Fort Stevens, site of a major battle of the Civil War that prevented the Confederates from entering Washington DC. It was also the only time a sitting president (Lincoln) was shot at during a battle.

The present day neighborhood (Brightwood) around Missouri Road and 13th Street was one of the centers of the large Negro slave and freemen community in the District of Columbia during the mid 1800's. Several historians and African-American history scholars investigating this property believe the undeveloped lots may contain one of the most important African-American historical/archeological sites in the region.

At an ANC 4A meeting earlier this month, which I attended, the developers had only a sketchy outline of a revised proposal, and the ANC voted to continue its opposition to the development. We believe that more time is needed for the entire community to examine possible alternatives that would save this important and significant property, rather have our options foreclosed by an inappropriate development.

We appreciate the interest and thoughtful attention that the BZA has given this matter.

Sincerely,

Loretta Neumann
Vice President

BZA
Case No. 16676
Exhibit No. 43

A Member of the United Way of the National Capital Area
Agency Code 8361

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Historic Takoma is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Maryland and the District of Columbia

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16676
EXHIBIT NO.43