COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
Office: (202) 724-8052
Fax: (202) 724-8120

ADRIAN M. FENTY
Councilmember - Ward 4

April 6, 2001

Committee Member
Economic Development
Education, Library and Recreation
Public Services
Subcommittee on Human Rights
Property Management, and Latino Affairs

District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW Ste. 210
Washington DC 20001

Please find, enclosed, a copy of a letter from two of my constituents, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Ash. As you will see, Mr. & Mrs. Ash's letter asks for a denial of variance for 5812 5th Street NW BZA Case #16686.

In the letter, information is spelled out concerning many circumstances that would require that this application be denied. I urge you to review the attached letter and to vote against this variance request.

Sincerely,

Adrian Fenty
Councilmember Ward 4
www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us

cc: Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Ash
ANC Commissioner 4B05

AMF/jtw

RECEIVED
D.C. BOARD OF ZONING
2001 APR -9 PM 3:16

BZA
Case No. 16686
Exhibit No. 21

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16686
EXHIBIT NO.21

APR 5 PM12:15

April 2, 2001

TO: District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment

RE: Variance Request for
5812 5th Street, NW

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 APR -4 PM 3:55

Dear Board Members:

Please allow this to serve as our input, recommendation, and request for a DENIAL of the above referenced variance petition.

Statement of Facts:

Our address is 5809 5th Street, NW, only yards away from the above referenced property

We are interested parties by virtue of the fact that we are homeowners across the street and in the same block as the above property.

Our interest is significant by virtue of our having lived here for almost 30 years.

We have personally witnessed activity going on in and around the property in question, that is not in line with the customary, community standard that we and our neighbors have created for ourselves over the past decades, specifically:

- occasions of violent arguments causing the police to be called to intervene, audible from across the street
- loud, boustrous activity into the early morning hours, audible from across the street
- abandoned vehicles that present a crime heaven and danger to others
- neglected animal(s) inside the dwelling requiring the City's attention
- open windows and doors over long periods -- conditions that presented an obvious hazard for crime and danger to others

The above statements are *personally* known by us and are not hearsay. Although we do not know Mr. Medley personally, we know what exists as a problem to out block because of his negligence. We know that if he took time to notice, his property has not been in keeping with those that surround his. We know that if this variance is granted that he would unfairly gain from the hard work and upkeep of those of us who choose to maintain the good that we found here when we came -- and MOREOVER, improve on it as best we can.

We believe that everyone deserves decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. Likewise, we believe that responsible homeowners maintain their surroundings. If several tenants were to occupy this single-family dwelling ownership standards and customs would decline even further. The kinds of things that went one with previous tenants, *without* a variance, make me shutter to think what would happen if one were granted! We respectfully request that you deny this request

for variance so that we can continue to work together as a community of homeowners and maintain the lifestyle for which we work.

Based on the above Statement of Facts (which we understand are but a few!), Mr. Medley has not demonstrated that he is interested in the standard of community living (*that the District's tax assessors agree*) of decent, single-family homes. There is not only no good reason to believe he will conduct his affairs any differently than he has in the past. In fact, he has conducted his affairs in such a way that make it quite clear why the variance should be denied. Please don't grant this request and let Mr. Medley come along and profit from what we work to maintain while he simultaneously destroys it.

Therefore, we again respectfully recommend that a DENIAL of Mr. Medley's request be issued and we fully support and agree with the Concern Community Activist Neighborhood Association.

Respectfully,

Calvin & Kadijat Ash

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Ash

Cc: A. Fenty,
Ward 4 Councilman