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Statement of Elizabeth B. Elliott
Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment on BZA No. 16701
Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Decision on 1957 E Street, NW (Square122, Lot 835)

April 10, 2001

Since January of 1980, I, Elizabeth Elliott, have resided at the York Apartments located at 532 20th Street NW. Starting in June of 2001, I established an independent graphic design consultancy, which I relocated in 1994 to my residence at the York, and where I continue to work for an international clientele in the banking and finance industries today.

Two years ago, I became actively involved in community matters, primarily in an effort to stop the destruction, conversion and expansion of the American Red Cross (ARC) Chapter House, located at 2025 E Street NW. This site is directly west across 20th Street, NW from the 1957 E Street, NW site, and is in the process of becoming the gargantuan new headquarters for the national ARC. The square footage of the building's interior is approaching half a million square feet including a four-story atrium at the front of the building.

The back side of this behemoth is located only 19 feet out my front, south-oriented window, and when completed, will engulf its former large, park-like setting and effectively become a wall in front of the community, blocking any direct sunlight, air, and eradicating current views of the Federal Reserve, State Department, small neighborhood parks and the Mall beyond. The two apartment buildings directly west of mine will suffer the same fate.

This is just one element of the built and natural environment in this neighborhood that has changed drastically since the original PUD was negotiated in the early 1990s. I ask that the Board consider the complete circumstances and setting of the 1957 E Street site when making their decision in this case.

BZA
Case No. 16701
Exhibit No. 19

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16701
EXHIBIT NO.19