Government of the District of Columbia

OFFICE OF ZONING

441 4TH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 210
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 727-6311

July 9, 2001

Charles A. Atherton, Secretary
Commission of Fine Arts
National Building Museum
441 F Street, N.W., Suite 312
Washington, D.C. 20001-2728

Re: BZA Appeal No. 16701
1957 E Street, N.W. (Square 122, Lot 835)

Dear Mr. Atherton:

The Office of Zoning is in receipt of your letter dated June 20, 2001, concerning the above-referenced appeal that is pending before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. We are unable to present your letter to the Board for several reasons. In appeals cases, only the parties to the case may submit comments and requests to the Board. The parties in this case are the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2A), the Zoning Administrator, The George Washington University, and the West End Citizens Association. Also, the record in this case closed at the conclusion of the public hearing on May 1, 2001, and the Board's rules do not permit materials to be filed in the record that would bear on the substance of the case unless those materials have been specifically requested by the Board.

In the event there are any post-hearing proceedings involving this appeal, you may wish to contact the parties regarding the Commission of Fine Arts concerns and work with the parties to present the Commission's concerns. Please feel free to call Richard S. Nero, Jr., Special Assistant at (202) 727-6311, if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA
Director

cc: ANC 2A
Zoning Administrator
GWU
WECA

BZA
Case No. 16701
Exhibit No. 70

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16701
EXHIBIT NO.70

THE CO..IMISSION OF FI..E ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

20 June 2001

Dear ~~Ms. Kress~~ Jerrily,

It has come to our attention that the BZA has granted an appeal of ANC 2A and a local citizen's association on the grounds that changes to a PUD design approved by the Zoning Administrator exceeded his authority on the Elliot School of International Affairs Project for George Washington University, at 1957 E Street, NW, which is now under construction. We understand that the BZA has requested changes that could significantly alter the final design approved by the Commission last year. The changes include (1) replacing cast stone as exterior cladding material above the second level with limestone, (2) adding an additional garage entrance, and (3) adding balconies to the dormitory portion of the building. The Commission has worked closely with the University and its design team throughout the development of this project to ensure that the design and materials selected were of the highest order and appropriate to the E Street corridor.

The Commission is concerned that this BZA action mandating aesthetic design changes after the issuance of a valid building permit (and in mid-construction), would be not only contrary to the established public review process, but detrimental to the approved design for 1957 E Street. Any changes to the current approved design would require that a modified design permit be submitted to the Commission for review. This will cause unnecessary delay and expense to the University and appear to overturn our careful deliberations on this project. Therefore the Commission respectfully requests that the BZA reconsider its recommendation and let the project proceed without further delay or modification.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Atherton
Secretary

Jerrily Kress, FAIA
Director, DC Office of Zoning
2nd Floor
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

CC to: Charles Barber, GWU
Phil Feola, Shaw Pittman
Coke Florence, SmithGroup
Thomas A. Butcavage, SmithGroup

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