April 27, 2001

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED
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Re: 301 3rd St, SE
16709
ANC-6B

Dear Mr. Kress,

I have deep roots in this small neighborhood. With the exception of the 3.5 years that we lived in California, I have raised my family on the two hundred and three hundred blocks of Third Street, SE. We have lived here through good times and bad since 1973. I am familiar with the texture and the pulse of this vulnerable neighborhood.

I feel protective towards this small neighborhood that is tucked between the commercial strip and the schools 'n parks. This neighborhood is an easy prey to "home business" whose occupants return each evening to the suburbs. Our homes are vulnerable to landlords whose only interest is to see how many tacky apartments they can squeeze inside these historic houses. This neighborhood needs livable homes for families.

This is why I was particularly delighted to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Brannon wanted to restore the corner property to a single family dwelling so they could make it their home. Single family homes are essential to the stability of this neighborhood. Though the present square footage of this property could be made comfortable for a young couple, it is not at all conducive to raising a family. That is why I was particularly pleased to see that they had found a clever way to expand the property... an expansion that would not only make the dwelling more appealing but would also accommodate children. Children need space... space for friends, bikes, and scouting projects. The present space doesn't provide it and would be a hardship to anyone who tried to raise a family there.

Middle class homes that can accommodate families are a rare commodity on the Hill. We need more of them. The Brannon plan would provide this neighborhood with a home that would be great for children... children who could walk down to one of the three neighborhood schools or one of the three neighborhood parks. Families invest energy in making neighborhoods work. They help to offset the many transient apartment dwellers.

BZA
Case No. 16709
Exhibit No. 22
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16709
EXHIBIT NO.22

#22

I was pleased to hear that the Historic Review Board had approved the design that would allow them to have the space they need to truly make it a family home. Bravo!

I was equally pleased to hear that the HRB had also approved the addition of the side porch. ....a graceful porch where owners can greet their neighbor or watch their dog laze in the carpet of grass that they have laid. Bravo! This corner property sets a tone for the rest of the block. The porch would give a cozy message to the visitors of the historic neighborhood. They would be able to see that here is a neighborhood where folks can still sit on the porch and watch their children play in the grass.

Finally, I would like to say something about the Brannons themselves: Every project they have touched has turned out beautifully. Bill, a designer and an employee of the architect of the capitol, has assisted a number of folks both on and off the hill improve their domiciles. His attention to detail leaves everything he touches the better for it. I expect no less of the property he would like to improve on the corner of 3rd & C SE.

I ask that you permit the zoning adjustment necessary for them to improve not only the property at 3rd and C SE but the culture of this block as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Weirich
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