WESLEY HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4323 CATHEDRAL AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016
(202) 244-7033

Ms. Sherri M. Priutt
Secretary
D.C Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

BZA Application 16740

Dear Ms. Pruitt:

The Wesley Heights Historical Society provided information to the drafters of the Chain Bridge Road/University Terrace Tree and Slope Overlay based on our experience with the Wesley Heights Overlay District. We support their efforts to control over-development in their vulnerable neighborhood just across Battery Kemble Park from us and are fully familiar with the issues involved in BZA Application 16740, having heard both sides of the case at a presentation before ANC3D earlier this month. In fact, the bottom-line issues are similar to those in our own case in Application 16521, namely, a developer who has acted in violation of a neighborhood sponsored overlay, and the developer's claim of hardship, even though self imposed. His cynical Saturday-morning tree-cutting, access road bulldozing and lot clearing in order to undo the applicability of the overlay limitation of tree cutting must not be condoned by granting him an *ex post facto* variance. The zoning regulations and the overlay, based not only on neighborhood concerns for landscape greenery but also on environmental effects of rampant erosion and runoff onto nearby parkland, are more important than the monetary benefits to a commercial developer who hopes for a rapid turnover. We support the neighborhood call for a turndown and denial of any appeal or resubmission of application for the required seven years.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Watson
President, The Wesley Heights Historical Society

BZA
Case No. 16740
Exhibit No. 53

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16740
EXHIBIT NO.53