16744

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001
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HAROLD BRAZIL
Councilmember-At-Large
Chairperson
Committee on
Economic Development

Committee Member
Finance & Revenue
Consumer & Regulatory
Judiciary
Government Operations

May 10, 2001

Mr. Eric Price
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, N.W., 11th floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Dear Mr. Price:

This letter is to express my support for the development project planned by Mr. Jay Hellman for 500 New Jersey, N.W. The proposed development is consistent with the principles and the philosophy of the Comprehensive Plan. Of course, simple, straightforward, logical variances may be required to fine-tune the zoning so the right building can be built.

The benefits of Mr. Hellman's proposal are clear. The 500 block of New Jersey Avenue links Noma to the Capitol, to Union Station, and to the Mall. The site is close to the Capitol and supported by significant transportation infrastrure (Metro, Union Station and I-395 in particular). Additionally, the three blocks between the Capitol grounds and Massachusetts Avenue would benefit from upgrading and revitalization.

I first became aware of Mr. Hellman's considerable efforts to re-develop New Jersey Avenue near the Capitol and Union Station several

BZA
Case No. 16744
Exhibit No. 13

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16744
EXHIBIT NO.13

years ago when I was the Councilmember representing Ward 6. He has been working on the development plans for a long time; I support his work and I am delighted he is in a position to proceed.

Now that I am Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, my principle interest is that government act in ways to facilitate intelligent growth. New Jersey Avenue could be more of a bustling commercial corridor with a unique and prestigious global identity. Combining underutilized parcels into a single site and redeveloping it in an elegant, high density office building with street-front retail would generate considerable benefits both for the private sector and the public sector. The revenue generated from such development would be significant.

Mr. Hellman's building will attract government affairs offices of significant companies. This will greatly assist the hotel and restaurant business in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Hellman's proposal presents Washington with an exceptional opportunity.

Unless Mr. Hellman receives assurances of prompt supportive action from the D.C. government, however, there is a risk that his proposed development might not proceed. I urge your office to support the project.

Sincerely,

Harold Brazil

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