CHAMPS

Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals

May 3, 2001

Mr. Eric Price, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Government of the District of Columbia
1 Judiciary Square
Washington, DC 20001

BZA 16744

Re: 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW

Dear Mr. Price:

The Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals is very excited about the new development taking place in the Hill vicinity and the association is very supportive of the Mayor and his stewardship (through you and your office in great part) in the promotion of well-planned, smart growth which will enhance the District as a premier American city and nation's capital.

With this said, CHAMPS wholeheartedly supports and requests your office's support for a project planned for the 500 block of New Jersey Avenue, NW by developer Jay Hellman. We believe his concept for this parcel of land is exactly what is needed. The building he proposes is most apropos in terms of design, purpose, history, sense of place, and economic development.

Because the site is unique, variances are required. CHAMPS is asking you and your office to consider expediting procedures to grant these variances. Mr. Hellman's proposal and successful execution are time-sensitive, requiring immediate action. Paving the way to get this building built requires your attention and commitment to the idea.

Mayor Williams has often spoken about US cities and how they are rebounding as centers of commerce, culture and life and the need for wise growth and vibrant city centers. Mr. Hellman's plan for 500 New Jersey Avenue is *right on the money* and would pave the way for other projects similar in scope, enriching the urban and DC experience for the business person, tourist, and proud resident. Because of the prominence of this site, nothing less than the proposed twelve-story office building would be appropriate.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Rob Gabany

Rob Gabany, Executive Director

BZA
Case No. 16744
Exhibit No. 27

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16744
EXHIBIT NO.27