District Of Columbia Government
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6A01
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july 10, 2001

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid, Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Room 220 South
Washington, DC 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Dear Ms. Reid and members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

Re: 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW -- BZA Application No. 16744

As the ANC Commissioner for Single Member District 6A01, the area in which this proposed project is located, I respectfully submit this petition. I have spent hours walking the site and vicinity as well as reviewing the considerable work done by Mr. Hellman in bringing the proposed project to this point.

On May 17, 2001, I wrote a letter of strong support, which, I understand, is already part of the public record. I am delighted to see this very important project come before the Board so promptly. The nearby commercial stakeholders have documented their unanimous support for this proposal, which exemplifies the value that they have attached to realizing this appropriate improvement to the New Jersey Avenue corridor.

The fact that all 5 hotels in the immediate area wrote strong letters of support expressing how their business will improve as a result lends credence to the notion that this project is in effect an HR Overlay project even though the site itself is too small to physically co-locate mixed-uses.

I envision 500 New Jersey Avenue as being an invaluable catalyst for the renaissance of the New Jersey Avenue corridor and for NOMA. I applaud Mr. Hellman for his vision, and for his un-yielding commitment to this project, against overwhelming odds.

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW as proposed by The Hellman Company inc. is the right building for this unique and important site.

When the Zoning and Licensing Committee, of which I am a member, met on June 13, 2001 to review this project, we thoroughly evaluated the relief requested. As the record reflects, the proposal was approved, overwhelmingly. Had there been a quorum sustained at an earlier (February 14, 2001) Zoning and Licensing Committee monthly meeting where Mr. Hellman made an earlier presentation, we may have taken the matter up at our June 7 full ANC meeting. However, our procedures do not permit such policy modifications, and following the formal approval at the June 13th meeting of the Zoning and Liscencing Committee,the matter has been placed on the July 26 meeting

BZA
Case No. 16744
Exhibit No. 48

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16744
EXHIBIT NO.48

agenda of the full ANC. Unfortunately, that meeting will occur after the scheduled BZA hearing on the 24th.

Although it may not be a concern of the Board, it is my understanding that Mr. Hellman is working against a contractual deadline that has no possibility for extensions. I do not wish to see SMD 6A01 miss this rare opportunity to receive both an elegant building, and a most appropriate catalyst toward the revitalization of this very special corridor.

I am hopeful that after considering the material issues of this application, you and your colleagues will agree with my findings and approve the needed variances within the context of the time constraints that afford this applicant the opportunity to bring this proposed project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hall, Commissioner ANC 6A01

Cc: Jay John Hellman