MÖBIUS
DESIGN

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Sheri Pruitt
DC Board of Zoning
441 4th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re; 1842 Calvert St., NW (Summary Order of 03 December 1997, application #16289)

Sheri Pruitt
DC Board of Zoning:

On behalf of the Educational Organization for United Latin Americans, (EOFULA) we are requesting an expedited hearing based on the fact that this is a resubmission of a previously approved project, and funding made available by DHCD which will be withdrawn if not used. Additionally, I respectfully urge the Board of Zoning Adjustments to issue a Bench Decision, and subsequently a Summary Order for the above referenced project. Again, our request is based on a previously submitted and approved application, Summary Order of 03 December 1997, application #16289.

EOFULA is a non profit organization that has been providing an invaluable service in the District of Columbia to Adams Morgan and Mount Pleasant Seniors for over two decades. The organization has operated out of the property located at 1842 Calvert St., NW, (the property in question), providing a stimulating environment for 40 to 60 seniors each day. The Center provides a critical social environment in a community with an ever increasing number of seniors.

Approximately five year ago the organization was forced to move from its founding home to a temporary location at 1844 Columbia Rd., NW. As a result of age, deteriorating building conditions including obsolete building systems, combined with serious accessibility problems, and compounded by a facility that did not meet their growing needs, EOFULA had no option, but to renovate their building. At the time EOFULA moved out of their facility to a temporary location in anticipation of an impending renovation and upgrade of their facility.

The main objective of the renovation is threefold; First, make the building accessible, this includes, new ADA ramps, and an elevator to access all function room floors. Second, upgrade building systems, given the Washington climate, the need for conditioned space for seniors is a necessity. Finally, safety, with the addition of a code specified second means of egress the addition would provide a safer environment while providing a minimal amount of much needed additional space for the program.

As stated the Organization has been operating out of a temporary leased space, the space is inadequate for the current program, and it also has accessibility problems. EOFULA is currently carrying a mortgage on the property at 1842 Calvert St., while carrying a lease for the occupied interim space at 1844 Columbia Rd., NW. The financial stability of the non-profit organization will be tested should the project require an additional six to eight months wait for the current process. Additionally the Organization continues to operate from this temporary facility in a basement; with minimal natural light and air, accessibility problems, and constraints on its program due to its physical environment.

A Variance was previously requested and granted in December of 1997. This is a resubmis-

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BZA
Case No. 16748
Exhibit No. 7

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16748
EXHIBIT NO.7

sion of the referenced project. No changes have occurred to the area nor the project. We are resubmitting the project as previously submitted and approved as noted.

The project, strongly supported by the City and Community, is much needed, for the incalculable benefits and services that it provides to the community. The Kalorama Citizens Assoc. has officially supported this project as submitted in late1997, a copy of the letter of support may be provided if required. The Historic Review Board has unanimously approved the project and previously signed off on the permit set of documents, as submitted. Historic Preservation has indicated that they will again sign off on the permit when submitted based on their 1997 approval. (A copy of the staff recommendation is also enclosed.) In addition DHCD, project manager, Jose Nunez is supporting the project with a loan or grant for the majority of the construction renovation cost. In addition, enclosed you will find a copy of the Office of Planning Report for your review. We believe that their comments will assist you in making a favorable decision to Approve the project as previously submitted and approved.

We believe that this project is important to both the District of Columbia, and the community of Adams Morgan /Mount Pleasant. EOFULA provides a priceless service to our elders and community, we respectfully request that you expedite the process for a decision before the Board of Zoning Appeals, during their next scheduled hearing.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Fonseca, AIA
President
Möbius Design

cc; EOFULA,
File

encls. Application
Zoning Self Certification Form
Photographs (3 elevations, 3 pages)
Exhibit A Statement of Use
Exhibit B Historic Preservation Review Board, Staff Report/Recommendation)
Exhibit C Application No. 16289 Summary Order 03 December 1997
Exhibit D Plat
Exhibit E Drawings, A1-A13
Exhibit F DCRA Permit Application Approval Sheet
Exhibit G List of Owners within 200 feet from property boundaries & (Address Labels)
Exhibit H O.P. Report