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August 10, 2001

Ms. Shelia Cross Reid, Chair
Office Of The Board Of Zoning
District of Columbia Board of Zoning & Adjustment
441 4th Street, North West (Suite 210-S)
Washington, D. C. 20001

Re: Application for Special Exception by SBA
Penn Branch Shopping Center
BZA Case No.: 16753

Dear Ms Reid:

We are writing this letter opposing the application, for Special Exception to permit an antenna, other than a commercial broadcast antenna, use in the R-1- B District. This proposed use of property is located at the Penn-Branch Shopping Center in South East Washington at the intersection of Branch and Pennsylvania Avenues.

The erection of a structure such as this(mono pole 150/148 feet which comes just under or at the present moratorium put in place by our Councilmember, Mr. Kevin Chavous. This huge obtrusive monstrosity will impact the quality of the lives of the residents of this beautiful aesthetic most desirable community. This tower is to be constructed beyond the parking lot adjacent to the homes on "O" Street and in the path of the residents on Highwood Drive and Carpenter Street. This tower is slated to include huge high powered lights which at this height would destroy our residential tranquility.

Towers and base station sites in residential zones and near schools generally decrease the desirability to own property or to live near these installations. Our community in the recent years have become proliferated with antennas, dishes and tower stations. Currently this very shopping center has two(2) dishes and four antennas, the Exxon Station across the street at Branch and Pennsylvania (south side) has antennas, Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church located at 30th and Pennsylvania has some 14 antennas, East Washington Heights Baptist Church located at Branch and Alabama Avenues houses several antennas, the Exxon Station located at Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues has a dish and several antennas. The following huge towers already exist at nearby areas: Benning Road and Minnesota, and a new one to be constructed at 1075 Kenilworth, 13th and Pennsylvania Avenue & G, SE., Coral Hills, just across the District line, 5040 Auth Road and 4305 Silver Hill Road(Smithsonian). All of these are located within five(3) miles of our community. While keeping in mind that the Penn Branch shopping center is a small commercial area, please be aware that the area surrounding is primarily residential.

This tower if allowed to be constructed will devastate our senior citizens , many of whom have resided in this community for 65 and or 70 years with the average being about 40 years. In fact, Mrs. Swedze shared with me the other day that when she and her husband came out here to pick out their lot the whole area was all woods and the street was just a path unpaved.

BZA
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Exhibit No. 82

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16753
EXHIBIT NO.82

I don't need to tell you how devastating this is to our elder citizens who remained in the city during the tough times, only to find out that their property, which for most of them, is their largest single investment. I am sure that you can understand their concern for it is this property on which they depend to augment their fixed income . We also have made plans to use the income from our homes to help us to afford to live in an assisted living environment when the time comes. I hope you can see what a drop in property value would do to us at this time.

Please note attached chart and map of the towers in the area and the antennas .

Please vote no on the proposed construction of this tower. After looking over the attachments I hope you will come to the same conclusion that I did . That you can't build enough towers to keep from running in and out of dead zones. I submit to you if numbers made a difference then we have an over abundance meaning we should not have any dead spots. The fact of the matter is that you can be right downtown and your calls can be dropped. If we try to build our way out of this our city will become a very ugly sight. As you ride around now it is on the way to becoming very unsightly. We are very afraid for our health and the health of our children.

We urge you to vote no on the construction of this tower. There are other commercial areas that are more suited for this tower if it just has to be built. Keep in mind it is monetary not necessity. The very people who have stated their various reasons for having this tower evidently do not understand how it works. This tower will not help them unless their carrier is one of the many companies who rent space. Most of the large companies already have their towers and antennas out here.

The safety issue relative to police and emergency service systems have their own system and do not operate on these commercial towers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours.

Charlie Y. Boyd

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