SEP 2 5 2001

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: **Sheila Cross Reid, Chairperson**
Board of Zoning Adjustment

FROM: **Robie A. Beatty, Esq., Board of Trustees**
Metropolitan A.M.E. Church

SUBJ: **October 2, 2001 Hearing Requested by the American Chemical Society**

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
RECEIVED
2001 SEP 25 PM 3:45

Upon leaving Metropolitan A.M.E. Church recently, I noticed that the American Chemical Society is scheduled to have a hearing regarding its plans to make changes to its building on 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. As an officer of Metropolitan church, I have a concern about any changes to its building that the Chemical Society might make.

In 1986, extensive structural changes made to the Chemical Society building gravely impacted our structure at 1518 M Street, N.W., which is now adjacent to the Chemical Society building. Because the additions to their building caused structural damage to our church, the D.C. government mandated that we evacuate our church until such time as it was deemed safe to return. We were forced to be out of our church for many months while work was done on our church to make it safe for us to occupy it. For this reason, our pastor, Rev. Ronald Braxton, and the officers and congregation, have an interest in any structural changes that the American Chemical Society wishes to make to its existing structure. Additionally, for the reasons already stated, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church wishes to be granted party status. We seek, also, a waiver of your requirement that such a request should be made two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing. It was this afternoon that I was able to determine that an addition to the existing Chemical Society structure was planned. No formal notification was received by the church which indicated the Chemical Society's plans regarding this matter.

We pray that there will be no negative impact to our church edifice, if the American Chemical Society is granted a variance to make structural changes to its building. Nonetheless, we seek party status to insure that, if necessary, we can participate in the process established by your Board for presenting issues affecting entities with a valid reason to be concerned.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you need to speak with me, you can contact me at work on (202) 671-1380. Any correspondence relating to this matter should be addressed to me at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, 1518 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Although I am faxing this memorandum to you, the original document will be mailed to you.

BZA
Case No. 16765
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16765
EXHIBIT NO.29