BARRETT KATZ, M.D., M.B.A.
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The George Washington University
WASHINGTON DC
MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

15 October, 2001

Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment

RE: Application # 16783

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to voice my concerns and disapproval about the proposed project for 1316 30th St NW. These are summarized in the enclosed letter of July 16, 2001, addressed to Tom Burch. As the adjacent neighbor to this proposal, I want to voice my concerns to the proposal before you .

I believe over the last 150 years, we have learned much about urban planning, and urban living. What we have learned is we have to protect open space, gardens, and light that we have, within our city. This project does not do that, and further encroaches upon our homes, our privacy, our property, and our space. We all must make adjustments and compromises to enjoy city living; the public good must override the individual needs and wants. This proposal negatively impacts the surrounding properties, and serves to degrade and alter an historic neighborhood.

We oppose this project because it extends the current house into its current yard, decreasing the size of that garden. We vehemently believe that the gardens now present in the Georgetown community must be preserved, indeed, expanded, not contracted. We also believe that the house at 1316 30th St NW is an elegant and important historical structure, and that the outlined project negatively impacts the dwelling itself.

Lastly, we believe that the proposed increased of lot coverage to be exactly the type of variance the Board of Zone of Adjustment *must speak against*, weather it be petition, my neighbor's, or my friend's. If the Board of Zoning Adjustment does not stand up and do what is best for the community, the tragedy of the commons will degrade each and every neighborhood that all of us live in.

We voice our concerns of this project of course noting that the Merriam's are outstanding people and neighbors; our opposition to their plans has nothing to do with them as individuals; it rest solely upon our interpretation of the merits of the application.

With sincere best regards,

Barrett Katz, MD MBA

Deborah Katz

Case 16783
Exhibit 21

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16783
EXHIBIT NO.21

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Dear Sirs:

We are writing to voice our concerns and disapproval about the proposed project for 1316 30th St NW. These are summarized in the enclosed letter of July 16, 2001, addressed to Tom Burch. As the adjacent neighbor to this proposal, we want to voice our concerns to the proposal before you . We are living in the adjoining structure at 1314 30th Street NW.

With sincere best regards,

Barrett Katz, MD MBA

Deborah Katz

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July 16, 2001

16783

Tom Birch
ANC –2E Commissioner
1240 29th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

RE: Proposed Edition to 1316 30th Street, NW

Dear Tom:

I wanted to make our feelings known to you, and to the ANC, as you deliberate through the proposal for the change to the Merriam house on 30th Street.

Let us first say that we cannot imagine two nicer people, or two finer neighbors than John and C.C. Merriam - they are wonderful citizens, wonderful people and wonderful neighbors. And so our feeling and analysis about the proposal of their addition have nothing to do with them personally, rather, are arrived at recognizing that the proposal must stand or fall on its own merits and added value to old Georgetown.

My wife and I are opposed to this project.
We are opposed for several reasons:

The proposed increase of lot coverage from 39% to 48.3% brings this house perhaps 7ft. closer to our home; we believe this would negatively impact our property, privacy, light and space. We believe this proposed addition will bring the Merriam house significantly closer to our own, and negatively impact both us, in looking out the proposed windows, right into those of each other. We ask that the project *not* be given variance from R3 zoning regulation in lot coverage.

The proposed addition would extend the Merriam house into the Merriam yard, *decreasing the size of the Merriam yard*, and negatively impact the openness and light exposure to several adjacent residences, our own included. We believe that the gardens now present in the Georgetown community should be *preserved*, indeed, *expanded*, certainly not contracted.

We believe that the old Georgetown community should as much as possible speak against alterations to its historic houses for whatever reason, as the nature of the community will only be preserved if we respect the integrity of the buildings as they exist.

We wish to make our feeling known, and ask that the council take these feeling into account, in their deliberations and decision making. We regret that we cannot be present at the open meeting, but both of us are out of town.

With sincere best regards,

Barrett Katz, M.D., M.B.A.

CC: Horsey and Thorpe, Architects