Exhibit #2

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OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
1701 NINETEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

November 8, 2001

Government of The District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: African Community Center, Inc, BZA Application No.: 16785

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to support the above-captioned application for a variance from off-street parking requirements under § 2101 of the Laws of the District of Columbia.

The African Community Center ("ACC") is located at 39 New York Avenue, NE. This center is a valuable meeting place from immigrants from the Republic of Sierra Leone and their American relatives and friends. Unfortunately, this badly needed facility is without adequate parking facilities, thus rendering it less valuable to our community than it would otherwise be with off-street parking availability in the vicinity of the center.

ACC is the only facility personally known to me as a centrally located, first choice meeting place for the large Sierra Leonean community in the DC metropolitan area. Public Halls in Maryland and Virginia are much too far away, too expensive and require booking months in advance, with deposits and full payments for their rental tied up for far too long.

The large Sierra Leone Diaspora community is a relatively new immigrant group in the D.C. area. Many of our people work two jobs or are mostly second shift employees who are able to find time for meetings, etc. only on weekends and on public holidays. As such members are not yet affluent enough to afford trips to out-of-District halls. Consequently, Sierra Leoneans desperately need a near-by, in-city meeting place where they can meet and plan assistance for their fellow Africans suffering from a terrorist war against civilians for the plunder of our diamonds.

The leasee of ACC is Mr. Francis Bundu, an individual well known to me as a hardworking, considerate and law-abiding gentleman. Mr. Bundu is working to bring Sierra Leoneans and Americans together to promote peace, cooperation and exchange between our two peoples.

Accordingly, I fully support his application for a zoning adjustment to permit off-street parking in the vicinity of 39 New York Ave., NE, D.C. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Leigh
Ambassador

BZA
Case No. 16785
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16785
EXHIBIT NO.29