ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN • AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK • FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

P.O. Box 9953 • Friendship Station
Washington, DC 20016

202-244-0800

24 November 2001

Steve Posniak
SMD 01

Chris McNamara
SMD 02

Tad DiBiase
SMD 03

Jill Diskan
SMD 04

Charles Mayo
SMD 05

Chief Ronnie Few
Washington Metropolitan Fire Department

Director,
Historic Preservation Review Board, Washington, DC

Dear Sirs:

I have been authorized by the unanimous consent of my fellow commissioners to communicate the position of ANC 3E in the matter of the Tenleytown Firehouse.

In the weeks before our 8 November meeting, it came to our attention that an application to protect the Firehouse structure as a historic landmark had been submitted by a private citizen to HPRB. This application was submitted just as construction was about to begin. We consider this to be a matter of public safety and, as such, one that warrants expeditious review and action.

The ANC 3E position on the matter remains as described in our resolution unanimously approved in October 2000 and attached hereto. We continue to support the plan presented to us by Chief Few during that October meeting. That plan calls for a fundamentally new firehouse, but one that preserves the exterior shell of the oldest section of the current structure in order to preserve a link with the past. This position was adopted in due consideration of an application for historic designation submitted shortly before by the Tenley Historical Society (THS) when plans called for a complete and utter replacement of the current structure. THS agreed to withdraw the application in light of the Chief's revised plan and the support for that plan expressed by the community through its ANC.

ANC 3E urges all parties concerned to reject this application and to permit timely execution of the current plan in light of the history-sensitive compromise achieved in October 2000 and, more importantly, the public's safety.

Sincerely,

For the Commission
Chris McNamara
Vice Chair, ANC3-E

BZA
Case No. 16813
Exhibit No. 20

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16813
EXHIBIT NO.20

Chief Few about a revised plan for a new firehouse that would preserve the

Subj: **Fw: Engine Co. No. 20 - Public Safety Should Be A Higher Priority than Questionable Historic Preservation**
Date: 11/30/01 6:16:58 AM Central Standard Time
From: sposniak@earthlink.net
To: Ksmith1804@starpower.net, Abauer4600@aol.com, LQUYNN@aol.com, MonamRus@aol.com, TwoDeacons@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

---- Original Message ----
From: Stephen Posniak <sposniak@earthlink.net>
To: <kellems.margaret@dc.gov>
Cc: <kpatterson@dccouncil.washington.dc.us>; <pmendelson@dccouncil.washington.dc.us>; <schwartzc@dccouncil.washington.dc.us>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2001 7:13 AM
Subject: Engine Co. No. 20 - Public Safety Should Be A Higher Priority than Questionable Historic Preservation

> Stephen Posniak
> 4640 Windom Place NW
> Washington, DC 20016-2404
>
> Dear Deputy Mayor Kellems:
>
> I urge the Mayor and Chief Few to heed the advice of Kathy Smith and
> many other members of the communities served by Engine Company
> No. 20 (Tenleytown Fire Station), and immediately move to adopt
> the original plan to demolish the existing structure and replace it
> with a totally new building which will accommodate the communities'
> existing and increasing need for an additional fire/rescue squad
> vehicle. The most immediate requirement is that the District
> file an application for a raze permit before Thursday, December 6,
> when the Capital Fire Museum will be eligible to file a new historic
> landmark application for the site.
>
> Your office, the Fire Department, and ANC-3E negotiated in good
> faith with the preservationists on this issue during the Fall of 2000,
> and made significant compromises involving the future public safety
> of the affected communities. Many of us opposed the compromise at
> the time. However, now that the District's preservationists have gone
> back on their agreement not to file for landmark status, it is time to
> accord public safety the higher priority which it merited all along.
>
> Clearly, historic preservation and zoning issues will delay the
> opening of either a new or a renovated old Engine Co. 20, regardless
> of which alternative the city selects. It is time for the Mayor and Chief
> Few to do the right thing and move with all of the District's resources
> to implement its original plan. Raze the existing structure, and build
> the most up-to-date, highest-capacity fire and rescue facility possible
> at 4315 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The community will express its
> gratitude for this decision in less than one year's time.
>
> Sincerely,
> Stephen Posniak
> (Former Commissioner, ANC-3E-01,

> 1999 - 2000;
> Former Commissioner, ANC-3E-04,
> 1982 - 1986)
> 202-663-4449 - O;
> sposniak@earthlink.net
>
> cc: Mayor Williams
> Councilmember Patterson
> At-Large Council Members
> ANC-3D, ANC-3E, ANC-3F, ANC-3G
>

exterior of the existing firehouse, and

Whereas Chief Few believes that the new plan is better than the original plan, and

Whereas THS will withdraw its application to protect the original firehouse and execution of the revised plan can begin almost immediately and, moreover, since the building will no longer be protected, any future modifications necessary to accommodate emerging public safety needs will not be impeded

Now, therefore, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3-E resolves to support the plan for a new firehouse endorsed by Chief Few.

ANC 3-E approved this resolution by a vote of 4 to 1 at its monthly public meeting on October 12, 2000. Commissioners present were Jill Diskan, Chris McNamara, Steve Posniak, Charles Mayo, and Tad DiBiase. Commissioner Posniak dissented.

Rec'd.
12.27.01

OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Beverly Bailey

Department: BZA

Telephone No.:(202) 727-6311

Facsimile No.: (202) 727-6072

FROM: Ralph Gyrus **DATE:** 12/27/01

Department: OPM/CCSA/PMD

Telephone No.: (202) 671-2214 Fax No.: (202) 671- 0648 or 0649

Comments:

Number of pages including cover sheet: 5