BZA # 16815

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Chair,
Human Rights, Latino Affairs &
Property Management Subcommittee

2nd Vice Chair,
Board of Directors, WMATA/Metro

May 21, 2002

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairperson
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 MAY 24 P 4:

Dear Chairperson Griffis and Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the application of Adams Alley, LLC to create a mixed-use development on the alley lot located at 2412 R 17th Street, N.W. Transforming this former industrial space into residential and other community oriented uses will be a significant benefit to the immediate neighbors as well as the larger Reed Cooke neighborhood. I believe that having activity in this alley, especially the residential units, will help discourage the various illegal and unwanted activities that currently occur in this alley.

In February of this year I participated in discussions with the applicant and members of the community regarding the project. In these discussions, numerous concerns were raised by members of the community regarding the project. I asked the applicant to take a look at ways in which the project could be revised to address these concerns. I am happy to say that the applicant made substantial changes to the project that addressed these concerns, including my own, regarding the project. As a result of these changes I am fully supportive of the project and have learned that the Reed Cooke Neighborhood Association and ANC 1C have also adopted resolutions in support of the project.

The Patricia M. Sitar Center is a wonderful organization that provides much needed arts and music education to the schoolchildren in the Adams Morgan neighborhood. In providing space at below-market rental rates for the Sitar Center, this project is providing a significant benefit to the surrounding community. It is also my understanding that some office space in the project will be made available to local community organizations. While this is not a zoning case that requires the applicant to

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provide community and public amenities, I believe that this project certainly provides such amenities to the neighborhood.

I have also learned that the Office of Planning has written a report that supports the approval of this application. In regards to the Office of Planning's goals of rehabilitating and reconstructing the alley system in this block, my office, along with the District Division of Transportation and the applicant, will work to bring about the appropriate renovation of the alley system in this block.

I commend the applicant in this case for all of the outreach to the community and attention to their concerns, which has occurred in this case. I hope that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will approve this application so that this project can move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

