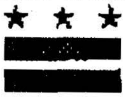
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING



June 19, 2002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Re: BZA #16823, Toutorsky Mansion

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Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

At the applicant's request, I recently toured the above-referenced historic property for the purpose of advising as to whether the on-going renovation work is consistent with the Department of the Interior's standards for the federal rehabilitation tax credit program. I reviewed the owner's renovation plans, the ongoing work, and the building's interiors on a room by room basis.

Constructed in 1892 for Supreme Court Justice Henry Brown, and later serving as the home of Russian pianist Basil Toutorsky, the building at 1720 16th Street, N.W. is a rare surviving freestanding Victorian mansion. The building's animated roof line, with both stepped and scrolled gables, and prominent chimneys, is an excellent illustration of the Victorian-era interest in Flemish inspired architecture.

BZA Case No. 16823 Exhibit No. 70

In my opinion, the building's interiors are among the finest in the city from this period, and remain remarkably intact. They possess important historic and architectural qualities, the preservation of which should be encouraged. Although the exterior of the building will be regulated by the DC preservation law, interiors such as this are not typically protected. The federal tax credit program offers five years of legal protection as

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16823
EXHIBIT NO.70