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1436 Oglethorpe Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

February 11, 2002

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application Number 16826

Dear Director Kress:

We are writing this letter to express our opposition to the application of City Gate for a special exception to permit church programs at the premises 5917 16th Street, N.W.

As residents of Oglethorpe Street for nearly twenty years, we are concerned that the residential nature of our neighborhood is not compromised by the proliferation of churches and non-profit organizations along the 16th Street corridor. Although it is true that City Gate occupies a property that is legally zoned as a church building, we believe that our neighborhood will not be better served by the proposed church operated program. This proposed program would bring volunteers, trainees and program recipients into the neighborhood on a daily basis. We cannot minimize the number of individuals who will come and go regularly to the City Gate property, whether it is foot traffic or vehicles. While most of these individuals will not pose a safety threat, some likely will.

The City Gate representatives contend that their program will not create a parking problem for the residents of this neighborhood, however we believe otherwise. In a recent communiqué to the residents of the neighborhood, Lynn Bergfalk, City Gate's Executive Director writes, "street parking along our corner lot on Oglethorpe is sufficient for seven vehicles"; yet, this parking area is curbside space along the street making it public space. The residents of Oglethorpe Street suffered limited parking for many years when the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church occupied 5917 16th Street and we believe this problem would resume and be a daily occurrence with the City Gate programs.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the City Gate application for a special zoning exception to permit church programs be denied.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tucker

Phil McLaurin

BZA
Case No. 16826
Exhibit No. 30

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16826
EXHIBIT NO.30