PENNSYLVANIA QUARTER

19 February 2002

Mr. Geoffrey Grifis, Chairman and
Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Special Exception for Church Programs for City Gate's Application for 5917 16th Street, NW

Dear Mr. Grifis and Members of the Board:

As I am unable to attend the postponed hearing for City Gate's application for a special exception for church programs, I have given Reverend Lynn Bergfalk this letter to read to you at the hearing on February 19.

While at the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation I met Lynn Bergfalk in the early 1990's when he was minister of Calvary Baptist Church and I was working to expand the Pennsylvania Quarter Neighborhood Association beyond its five founding members.

Being concerned about the community and seeing the Pennsylvania Quarter Neighborhood Association as a vehicle for advocating good planning and development and providing an opportunity to become better acquainted with those in the neighborhood, Reverand Bergfalk initiated Calvary Baptist Church's membership in the Pennsylvania Quarter Neighborhood Association. He also became an active participant, attending our monthly morning neighborhood meetings. In May 1995 he was our featured speaker at a meeting that Calvary Baptist Church hosted. The neighborhood responded to his presence and support for our goals to create a mixed-use environment that included residences and the arts in addition to the traditional offices, shops, and restaurants one typically found downtown: year after year at our annual holiday event, those who live and work in the Penn Quarter contribute between 250 and 300 presents to Calvary Baptist Church for the many children benefitting from their programs.

I would like to end by saying that Reverend Bergfalk has continually responded to the community and has considered the community's interest in his decision making. In my view, the Penn Quarter's loss is upper 16th Street's gain and a gain for the city as well.

Very truly yours,

Jo-Ann Neuhaus

Jo-Ann Neuhaus
Secretary-Treasurer

BZA
Case No. 16826
Exhibit No. 37

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16826
EXHIBIT NO.37

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