307 5TH STREET, N.W. - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

February 11, 2002

Mr. Geoffry H. Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

BY FAX TO: (202) 727-6072

Re: BZA Case No. 16833 - 306 Carroll Street, N.W.

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I understand that Silver Spring, Maryland, resident Daniel Meijer has written to you arguing against a variance for the proposed apartment building at 306 Carroll Street, N.W. Mr. Meijer attempts to claim standing before the BZA because he is "writing out of respect for" his 80 year-old father, a "longtime resident (1956) of the District of Columbia," who has spent "many hours advocating for a bike trail from Silver Spring to Union Station." Having claimed standing because of his lineage (without claiming to have been born, raised or schooled in D.C.), Mr. Meijer then requires your review of an opinion from a lawyer for a Washington, D.C., law firm. Fortunately, neither he nor his lawyer tries to pretend that the father sought legal advice on opposing this development. Both state that Mr. Meijer retained the firm.

Mr. Meijer currently co-chairs the Georgia Avenue Gateway Coalition, although in this case he does not seek standing because of that role. However, his involvement in Gateway means he is well aware of the community organizations serving the D.C.-Takoma neighborhood, including ANC-4B, Historic Takoma and Plan Takoma. (Plan Takoma is a member of the Gateway Coalition.) He did not seek to communicate his concern for his father to any of these three organizations when each was debating the merits of the proposal for 306 Carroll. Nor has he mentioned his father in his recent posts to our neighborhood email listserve. Instead, Mr. Meijer brings up his father in an attempt to persuade the Board of Zoning Adjustment that it should pay attention to a legal opinion he has purchased, while bypassing all three community groups that have held meetings on this issue.

It is reasonable to think that if Mr. Meijer's father were seriously concerned that his position should be communicated to the Board, the helpful son would have drafted a letter for the father's signature and would have engaged lawyers on his father's behalf who would have communicated to the father. At minimum, one would have expected that a letter to communicate his father's concerns would have included Mr. Meijer's father's name, in particular, and his address and telephone number in the District of Columbia. It is therefore reasonable to believe that the gentleman must not live in D.C.-Takoma..

Mr. Meijer did not choose to present any of his father's concerns to meetings of organizations serving D.C.-Takoma. Developer Russell Katz, on the other hand, made presentations to these groups and made significant changes to the building design in response to community feedback. As a resident of D.C.-Takoma, who is active in this community, I urge you to acknowledge Russell Katz's respect for community process -- and Mr. Meijer's effort to avoid it -- by giving no consideration to the letter or the legal opinion that Mr. Meijer has forwarded to you.

Sincerely,

Dodie Butler

Dodie Butler

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BZA
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Exhibit No. 30

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16833
EXHIBIT NO.30

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