Testimony of Erik S. Gaull before the
Board of Zoning Adjustment
July 9, 2002

In re: BZA Case No. 16836 – Washington Home for the Aging

Good afternoon Chairman and Commissioners of the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you here today.

I am Erik S. Gaull, and I currently reside at 5517 Potomac Ave., NW. I am here today to oppose the granting of a Special Exception to the Washington Home for the Aging for the purposes of expanding its facility and its parking lot.

I oppose this application because I feel that any applicant should demonstrate good faith efforts to be in compliance with existing BZA orders before seeking additional Special Exceptions from the BZA. Applicants which are not in compliance with existing orders of the BZA should be asked to come into compliance with prior orders or to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the BZA that the order cannot be complied with and why.

It behooves the BZA to make compliance with its orders a necessary but not sufficient prerequisite for the granting of additional exceptions. To allow applicants to obtain additional Special Exceptions without having first complied with earlier orders reduces the effectiveness and meaning of all BZA orders because it rewards scofflaws.

Granting this Special Exception application would do more than send the wrong message to potential applicants to the BZA – it would open the floodgates for others who seek to ignore community concerns because they would recognize that BZA orders can be "toothless."

Again, I urge this body to require compliance or proof of why such compliance is impossible before considering the merits of the application.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Erik S. Gaull

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EXHIBIT NO.66