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April 28, 2002

Chairman Geoffrey H. Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 210
441 4th St., NW
Washington, DC, 20001

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Dear Chairman Griffis,

With some trepidation I offer these comments on your very patient and professional conduct of the first day hearing on St. Patrick's application, Case #16852, opened April 16, 2002.

Because of opponent interruptions, a simple case dragged on for hours with little accomplished. Disruptions of your attempt to explain hearings rules wasted over an hour so that presentation could not be completed by 4 pm when Mrs Kenshaw had to leave. Cross examination of Mrs Bradley wasted over an hour with only about 10 minutes of questions she could or should answer. Apologies by lawyers for lack of time for preparation, for lack of skill in your law, and for lack of knowledge about case details wasted far too much time and bordered on being unprofessional..

Based on the above, my conclusion was that opponents either wanted to delay this case or desired to learn your business at our expense.

As a long time bureaucrat, I early learned that "Time is Money". With over 100 people involved- you officials, staff, and necessary government support, lawyers hired, expert witnesses, and attendees, the costs of our hearing were huge. Investment in the property could cost five figures per month. An unfortunate ancillary cost is the reaction of many to the delays described above, which adversely affect respect for DC Government.

My writing you is an urgent request that you enforce your hearing rules. The May 21 date should finish this case, thus saving time and money for all parties, and help build confidence in our Government. Don't be sucked into their time wasting trap.

Keep up your good work. I sympathize with and respect the job you do.

Sincerely,

William G. Smith

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 259

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.259