POTOMAC LANDS
Tree and Shrub

May 19, 2002

Alma Gates - Trustee
Neighbors United
4911 Ashby Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007
Fax 202-338-4418

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 JUL -2 PM 2:35

Dear Ms. Gates,

The following is in regards to the magnolia tree at 4925 MacArthur Blvd., N.W. Washington, DC 20007:

In consideration of the proposal of construction, extending the building out 10 feet and digging out 12 feet below the grade, this will remove approximately 1/3 of the root system of the magnolia tree and 1/2 of the foliage on the same side of the tree. In addition, the use of equipment will create compaction to the remaining root system and broken limbs which will be inevitable with building so close to the tree. This magnolia tree will be highly accessible to wind throw (blown over in high winds), borers (insects that attack the main trunk of weak trees) or root rot fungus that attacks the root system of weak trees. This magnolia tree can not survive under the circumstances outlined. I recommend removal of this tree before construction, which would be an honest and practical approach.

The beech tree next to the parking spot has large decayed area at the main trunk, considering the location, I believe it was hit by a vehicle. There is another large decayed area on the other side at approximately a 7 foot height. This tree is structurally weak. With root loss and compaction, this tree will surely decline. This tree is fine for now, however, after stressing the tree out due to construction, this tree will decline. In an ideal situation before construction starts, the orange fence is installed around drip line of trees to protect the roots. In this operation that is impossible. It would be practical to remove this tree before construction.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact me at 703-450-4475.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

David R. Pail
Cert. Arborist #MA0451
MD Tree Expert #604

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 293

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.293