APPLICATION #16861 "INGLESIDE AT ROCK CREEK"

TESTIMONY BY ANNE MOHNKERN RENSHAW
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AS A 28-YEAR NEIGHBOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME (INGLESIDE), I BACK THE PROPOSED USE OF THE MANOR HOUSE, APPLICATION #16861 ... SUBJECT TO A CONDITION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME/INGLESIDE TO DISALLOW AMPLIFIED SOUND FROM OUTDOOR MANOR HOUSE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

WHY IS NOISE CONTROL IMPORTANT TO ME AS AN ABUTTOR TO THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME FACILITY? MY HOME FRONTS ON WARD 3/4'S MAIN STREET, MILITARY ROAD. APPROXIMATELY 35,000 VEHICLES A DAY ROAR BY MY LITTLE WHITE HOUSE, THE FRONT DOOR OF WHICH IS ONLY USED TO GET THE MORNING PAPERS AND BRING IN THE MAIL. ADD TO THAT THE EVER-PRESENT SIRENS FROM EMERGENCY VEHICLES THAT USE MILITARY ROAD TO REACH HOSPITALS, FIRES, POLICE SCENES AND ACCIDENTS. AT THE REQUEST OF AN INGLESIDE RESIDENT WHO IS DISTURBED BY THE SIRENS, I HAVE ASKED THE CITY TO INSTALL A "QUIET" SIGN ON MILITARY ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HOME.

WHEN THE WEATHER PERMITS, I LEAVE BEHIND THE NOISE OF MILITARY ROAD AND RETREAT TO MY BACK YARD FOR QUIET AND PEACE. THE VALUE OF MY PROPERTY IS THE TRANQUILITY OF THE BACK YARD, THREE HOUSE LOTS DEEP, STRETCHING TO THE ALLEY THAT PARALLELS THE INGLESIDE ADDITION JUST ACROSS THE RAVINE.

LOOKING AT THE PLANNING OFFICE'S AERIAL MAP, ONE WOULD THINK THAT THE MANOR HOUSE LAWN IS A DISTANCE FROM MY HOME. BUT IF YOU CREASE THE MAP AT THE STREAM-LINE, THE WIDTH FROM THE 29TH STREET ALLEY BEHIND MY HOUSE TO INGLESIDE SHORTENS CONSIDERABLY. THE MANOR HOUSE IS SITUATED AT A POINT WHERE THE LAND FALLS AWAY TOWARD THE HOME OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE COTE D'IVOIRE AND THE RAVINE.

SOUND CARRIES, ACROSS AND DOWN THE RAVINE, DEPENDING ON THE WIND AND THE AMPLIFICATION AT THE SOURCE.

AMBIENT NOISE ASSOCIATED WITH PRESBYTERIAN HOME/INGLESIDE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN INTRUSIVE OVER THE YEARS. MALFUNCTIONING OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT, COMMERCIAL TRUCK DELIVERIES THAT COULD BE HEARD BLOCKS AWAY, MULTI-YEAR CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND EVEN TOO-LOUD MUSIC FROM INGLESIDE'S DEDICATION EVENT HAVE PERMEATED MY OTHER-WISE RESTFUL BACK YARD. SUCH NOISE HAS, IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPECIAL EXCEPTION, "AFFECTED ADVERSELY THE USE OF (MY) PROPERTY."

(CONTINUED)

BZA
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
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EXHIBIT NO.29

THE SOLUTION TO THIS NOISE PROBLEM RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE IS NO-COST AND EASY. IT DOES NOT REQUIRE SOUND ENGINEERS' STUDIES, EXPENDITURES OF MONEY, NOR THE CURTAILMENT OF MANOR HOUSE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES. IT MERELY ENTAILS MOVING MANOR HOUSE "AMPLIFIED" EVENTS TO INGLESIDE'S LARGE INDOOR COMMUNAL SPACES OR INSIDE THE MANOR HOUSE ITSELF WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 150 PEOPLE, THE AGREED-TO "FUNCTIONS" CAP. RECEPTION LINES, PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES, EAT AND GREET EVENTS COULD STILL TAKE PLACE ON THE MANOR HOUSE LAWN ... BUT PLEASE, WITHOUT THE AMPLIFICATION OF SOUND ASSOCIATED WITH LARGE-SCALE, OUT-DOOR GROUP EVENTS.

THE DISTRICT'S NOISE CONTROL ACT, TITLE 20, CHAPTER 27, 2700.1, STATES "IT IS THE DECLARED PUBLIC POLICY OF THE DISTRICT THAT EVERY PERSON IS ENTITLED TO AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS THAT ARE NOT DETRIMENTAL TO LIFE, HEALTH, AND ENJOYMENT OF HIS OR HER PROPERTY."

218.5 AND 219.5 OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS, STRESS THAT A "FACILITY CANNOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE OF ... NOISE ..."

I ASK THE BOARD, THEREFORE, TO CONDITION ITS ORDER ON APPLICATION #16861 TO EXCLUDE AMPLIFICATION (LOUD SPEAKERS, MICROPHONES AND/OR ELECTRICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS) FOR ANY OUTDOOR MANOR HOUSE EVENT. THAT WOULD SATISFY ABUTTING COMPLAINANTS AND RELIEVE CONCERN ABOUT NOISE ASSOCIATED WITH MANOR HOUSE OUTDOOR FUNCTIONS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST.