Mary T. Conte
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May 08, 2002

DC Office of Zoning
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 south
Washington, DC 20001

Board of Zoning Adjustment:

We are writing with concern and opposition to the application of All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church,, ANC-3C, Case No. 16875 scheduled for Public Hearing on May 29, 20002 (1PM-6PM).

Until it was discovered that the All Souls administration was using the church parking lot as a commercial valet lot for neighboring restaurants, a legal "exception" to existing zoning regualtions was not considered. The neighborhood is now being asked to sanction such an "exception".

Allowing a special exception to use the church parking lot for weekday parking amounts to the establishment of a commercial parking lot. This **precedent**, while seemingly harmless, has the potential for a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Issues raised by such an action include security, safety and environmental impact. Security issues should not be overlooked. Commercial parking lots are subject to vandalism, and considering that we already have enough of that on the street, we do not need additional incentives.

There are many children and pets in the 2700 block. Additional traffic in the alleyway and on the street is also cause for concern. And, a commercial parking lot on a quiet residential street is environmentally unappealing to those of us who moved to Woodley Place because it **was** a quiet residential street.

The administration of All Souls has not reached out to the neighborhood in the past; the first and only time the church extended itself to its neighbors was the recent request for contributions and a zoning change.

We doubt that commercial parking would be an issue if the pastor of All Souls Church occupied the house next door to the lot.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Conte
Deena M. Pers

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Case No. 16875
Exhibit No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16875
EXHIBIT NO.23