Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

6856 Eastern Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012

To Be Sent Via Fax

June 3, 2002

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Mr. Geffory Griffis
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Griffis:

Please accept this letter as Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's (ANC 4B) testimony in Case No. 16878. We support the request of the owners of the Cady-Lee Home, located at 7064 Eastern Avenue, N.W., to use the building for an office.

ANC 4B discussed this issue with representatives from the group that recently purchased the Cady-Lee, the Forum for Youth Investment, during three separate meetings.

We voted to support this use during our public meeting, held on May 23, 2002 at the 4th District Police Headquarters, 6001 Georgia Avenue, N.W. The motion that was adopted noted our support for the proposal and our concern, shared by Historic Takoma, Inc., about keeping parking on the site to a minimum to preserve the historic character of the property's limited back yard.

A quorum was present for this vote. Seven commissioners voted "yes," and one commissioner abstained.

There were several major points discussed during the May 23 meeting and at our earlier sessions.

1. The Forum For Youth Investment promises to retain the historic character of the Cady-Lee House, both inside and outside.

2. The use of the building as an office is consistent with other uses that are permitted as a matter of right in the R-5A Zone, including schools, churches, a physician's or dentist's office, or a sorority house or a private club. However, the

BZA
Case No. 16878
Exhibit No. 24

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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CASE NO.16878
EXHIBIT NO.24

Forum's use, which would bring about 15 staff persons to the home on a daily basis, and might include the occasional party, would bring less traffic, noise, and parking conflicts to the neighborhood than many of the uses that could come as a matter of right.

3. In addition, schools, churches, and physicians' offices are more likely to alter the interior of this historic structure than The Forum.

4. We understand that there is available parking in the back of the Cady-Lee for 9 or 10 cars. We were told that five staff members drive to work, with the remainder arriving on foot or via the nearby Metro system. We also understand that a parking waiver may be necessary but that the Forum will receive some "credit" in the calculations for the Cady-Lee Home's proximity to the Takoma Metro Station.

5. We received a letter from Historic Takoma, Inc., our community's historic preservation group, in support of the application.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Barrington Scott (as per sdg)

Barrington Scott, I, Chairman
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