GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AGING

E. Veronica Pace
Executive Director
Office on Aging

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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July 8, 2002

Albert R. "Butch" Hopkins, Jr.
President and CEO
Anacostia Economic Development Corporation
2019 Martin Luther King, Junior, Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

RE: BZA Application: No. 16896

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

In response to your request, the D.C. Office on Aging supports the Randle Highlands Manor Limited Partnership's zoning application for a variance and special exemption to construct an assisted living facility for seniors and other qualified persons on the premises known as 2700 R Street, S.E. As the State and Area Agency on Aging for the District of Columbia, we encourage the development of housing programs and services that allow our seniors to remain in the community, particularly those who may need assistance as they go through the different life stages.

As the number of seniors continue to grow, it is important to provide them with housing options in order for them to continue to live in the community. There are 1,010 persons living in the Randle Highlands community of which 175 (17.3%) are persons 60 years and older. A typical senior in the area would be a woman, 75 years old living alone in rental housing, on a retirement income. As she ages, the likelihood increases that she may have a chronic disability that may limit her activities of daily living. Therefore, appropriate housing and other supportive services become more important.

The lack of assisted living facilities has forced some of our seniors to relocate out of the city, particularly those in East of the River neighborhoods. The community benefits from this project by having a housing option for our elderly neighbor, friend and/or relative that will help them stay in the neighborhood. The social and community value of this project contributes to neighborhood stability.

BZA
Case No. 16896
Ex. No. 27

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16896
EXHIBIT NO.27

We are confident that this housing project will be a good neighbor and community partner in the Randle Highlands neighborhood. Seniors are an important part of the community and are is to be valued and allowed to live with dignity and independence in housing that is affordable, appropriate, accessible and qualitative.

Again, we strongly ask that you approve the variance and special exemption request for this project.

Sincerely,

E. Veronica Pace
Executive Director