Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman, Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th Street, N. W. Ste. 210 South
Washington, D. C. 2001

Chairman Griffis and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Marie Harris Aldridge. Since 1980 I have resided at 1801 30th Street, SE at the corner of "S" Street. I am a member of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church where I have been a faithful and loyal member since 1974. I am the immediate past chair of the Deacon Board and presently teach the new members' orientation class and chair the Pastor Search Committee, sing in the Sanctuary Choir and anything else that promotes my faith and my personal convictions.

In 1995, I retired as supervising director of Library Media Services from the District of Columbia Public Schools after 30 years of dedicated and distinguished service (15 years as a school library media specialist and 15 years as supervising director). Presently, my civic duty is fulfilled as President of the Board of Library Trustees where I have been a member since 1997, and I am in my second term of five years as a trustee for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California.

Today, I act out of my personal conviction in support of the proposed Randle Highlands Manor Assisted Living Facility development project to be located at 2700 "R" Street, Southeast. Based on my understanding of the proposed project, it will provide quality, affordable housing for senior residents in the District of Columbia.

I am moved to take this position due to a turn of events in my life that provided me an opportunity to view life differently from younger, more energetic days. First, there is the situation of the calendar, birthdays, and the health and medical side-effects of growing older. Secondly, my husband suffered a stroke on October 29, 1999 and had to undergo extensive rehabilitative speech, physical, and vocational therapy. Today, he is recovered limited only by the lack of use of his left hand. I was able to provide loving care for him at home. With the increasing demands of a house, maintenance inside and outside, reason has been given for me to begin to explore availability of decent, high-quality alternatives for seniors (myself included) who may choose assisted living facilities. I have personal friends and members of my church who have chosen that route. One of them is a neighbor and friend who lived on 30th Street. While I don't know for sure, but the possibility exists that given a choice of a quality facility with the features outlined for Randle Highlands Manor, she might well have chosen to stay near the church since she continues to come and her friends and associates reside in this community.

Thank you for hearing my perspective relative to the Randle Highlands Manor, *an assisted living facility.*

BZA
Case No. 16896
Exhibit No. 32

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16896
EXHIBIT NO.33