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July 16, 2002

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W. Street, 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

2002 JUL 16 PM 5:
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dear Chairman Griffis:

Good afternoon. My name is Brenda L. Turner, Director of Aging Services of the Greater Washington Urban League, Inc. I am an Independent Licensed Social Work Administrator and Practitioner, specializing in Gerontology and Community Health. I have spent the last 21 years developing systems of care for the aged of the District of Columbia, and therefore very honored to represent the Urban League at this most important hearing today. I have come to express the Greater Washington Urban League's support of the proposed Randle Highlands Manor Assisted Living Facility development project to be located at 2700 R Street, Southeast.

We believe this project will meet a crucial need for quality, affordable housing for senior residents of the District of Columbia who are no longer able to live safely in an independent setting. Many in this fast growing old-old population find themselves in need of assisted living facilities.

The Urban League, having a thirty-two year track record servicing the aged of the District of Columbia, recognizes the importance of having such facilities available in the District to allow senior citizens to remain near their life-long neighborhoods and communities, surrounded by family and friends.

The proposed Randle Highlands Manor Assisted Living Facility development project will meet an important need, for the District of Columbia and southeast in particular. Southeast is in need of the development of alternative housing to meet the special housing needs of the aged population. We need to look favorably at assisted living and 202 congregate housing projects for the southeast area, as evidenced by the figures in the chart below.

BZA
Case No. 16896
Exhibit No. 35

Division of Aging Services
2900 Newton Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20018
(202) 529-8701
FAX (202) 832-3127

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16896
EXHIBIT NO.35

Mr. Griffis
Board of Zoning and Adjustment continued...

1998 ELDERLY POPULATION BY WARD

WARD	60	60-64	65-74	75+
1	10,860	2,624	4,585	3,651
2	12,008	2,920	4,910	4,178
3	16,261	3,003	6,074	7,184
4	18,988	4,894	8,577	5,517
5	16,148	4,057	7,332	4,759
6	10,203	2,658	4,653	2,892
7	**12,702**	**3,463**	**5,816**	**3,343**
8	6,136	1,840	2,606	1,690

Note: The figures are taken from the 1998 data. There are population shifts since the 2000 census data by Wards.

We will not be able to accommodate this fast growing advanced age population of the District of Columbia in nursing homes. There will not be enough beds. We will need to make communities and the overall infrastructure age sensitive.

In closing, the Greater Washington Urban League Division of Aging Services is in full support of this valuable project and solicits your approval of the Randle Highland Manor Assisted Living Facility.

Thank for allowing me to speak.

Respectfully yours,

Brenda L. Turner

Brenda L. Turner, MSW, ACSW, LISW
Director
Division of Aging Services