Chuck Baxter
914 Westminster St, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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July 15, 2002
Geoffry Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St, NW Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Case Number 16901

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I'm writing to oppose the grant of the requested special exception that would allow the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge to extend their accessory parking at the corner of Vermont and T Streets, NW. As a long-time resident of this neighborhood I feel it's time to convert the empty lots to housing. Over the years this neighborhood has gone through some hard times. Now people are moving back in. They need and deserve a safe, clean neighborhood. The parking lot, which is vacant most of the time, gives a feeling of desolation to that corner as one approaches the Black Civil War Memorial. This is the atmosphere the area had for many years in the 70s, 80s, and early 90s. Housing is needed in the neighborhood, not a parking lot within steps of a Metro stop.

The Lodge bought the lots in 1998 knowing they were zoned R-4. With the amount of development going on in the U Street area, there would be no lack of prospective developers for these lots. If they are turned into parking for nine Lodge officers, it will be years, if ever, that we see them used for housing.

Please strengthen our residential neighborhood by denying the Lodge's request to use these lots as parking.

Sincerely,

Chuck Baxter

BZA
Case No. 16901
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16901
EXHIBIT NO.29