CENTRAL NORTHWEST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

7TH Street to 14th Street, N.W. Florida Avenue to K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

President
Clara J. McNeary

President Pro Tem
W. Norman Wood, Jr.

BZA
Case No. 16901
Exhibit No. 36

July 18, 2002

RECEIVED
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Mr. Geoffrey H. Giffif
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
D.C. Government
441-4th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Ref: BZA Case No. 16901

Dear Chairman Giffif:

The Central Northwest Citizens Association is in support of the zoning relief sought by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge under the above captioned case number. We have had a community relationship with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge dating back to 1923. It was the "Masonic Order" that removed one of the most deteriorated sights ever in the city from the corner of Vermont Avenue and "T" Street, N.W. This was a five (5) story abandoned apartment building where vandals were setting fires every year.

The request to utilize lots 824 and 825 in square 333 as "off street" parking is a common sense approach to the neighborhood "on street" parking problems. An impartial analysis of this application would include the view that all transportation options should be included in the plans for this area. It contributes very little to a beneficial resolution to preclude cars as a part of how commercial business operate in our community. Many restaurants, bars and other businesses have been and continue to be licensed and welcomed in our community without the provisions for vehicular parking despite their reliance on cars to bring customers to their establishments.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16901
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We ask the Board of Zoning Adjustments to look at the history. The "Masons" are important to this community. They helped stabilize this community during the civil disorders. They provided leadership in working with schools. They were here during every crisis. They still provide services others dare not touch.. Their aspirations should be considered as important as everyone else after being here nearly a century. They should not be dictated to especially by people who just a short time ago would drive ten miles out of the way to keep from coming through Shaw and now believe everything belongs to them.

The Central Northwest ~~Civic~~ CITIZENS Association recommends approval of application 16901.

Sincerely,

W. Norman Wood, Jr.
President Pro Tem

cc: Membership

2. The applicant has demonstrated a flagrant disregard for zoning and building regulations.

- As of this writing, we have found **no record of required paving permits** for the lot(s) on this application. As you well know, permit applications trigger appropriate reviews by multiple District agencies. By failing to get the required permits, the applicant appears to have circumvented all public safety, health, historic preservation, environmental, building code, and assessment reviews.

- Other actions by the applicant demonstrate a disregard for the neighborhood and the laws. Since 1994, neighbors have begged the applicant to **renovate a vacant historic house** midway between their building and the lots in the application. Instead, they have covered it with a movie-set front, possibly using public funds. Instead of an asset, it is a steadily deteriorating embarrassment – steps from the Civil War Memorial.

- Others have addressed the **failure to apply for a continuing zoning exception** or even to comply with the one that has expired. There is a demonstrated lack of good faith that should precede any special treatment. Scofflaw behavior should not be rewarded.

I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Susan L Ousley

Susan L. Ousley

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FAX TRANSMITAL SHEET

DATE JULY 22, 2002 TIME 11:

TO: MR. GEOFFREY H. GIFFIT

FROM: W. NORMAN WOOD, JR.

D.C. ...
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NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET = 3

TRANSMITTED TO: 202 727 6072

IF THERE ARE ANY INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT W. NORMAN WOOD, JR. AT 202 234 8017