Benjamin F. Stearn, M.D.
1615 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

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November 20, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the Andrea Marinkovich Gallery proposed for ~~1637~~ 1629 21st Street. I believe this gallery would be a positive addition to this neighborhood. I bought my house on 21st Street almost two years ago *because* of the surrounding art galleries, the Friday art events, the local restaurants, and the vibrant nightlife.

The contention that another gallery in the neighborhood will bring down property values cannot hold up to scrutiny: Why have the houses around the corner on R Street consistently sold for $1.5 million, sandwiched between galleries? My worst fear is for the property at 1637 to turn into yet another group house for college kids. (Witness the weeds and torn, faded American flag on the grounds of 1701 21st Street, and the piles of trash and furniture constantly piled in front of the group house next to me, at 1617 21st Street.) I have spent countless hours with the city government trying to clean up these eyesores. I have never had a complaint about an art gallery.

I feel strongly about the positive aspects of these galleries on my neighborhood, and wish that I could testify in person at the various ANC meetings, but my schedule has conflicted with these meetings. If anyone has questions, I would be happy to answer questions by phone at (202) 745-0201 daytime, or (202) 462-4719 evenings.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Stearn

BZA
Case No. 16920
Exhibit No. 65

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16920
EXHIBIT NO.65

To: BZA 202/ 707-6072

From Burton Marinkovich Fine Art

RE: Case # 16920

Pages: 2 including cover ~~Sheet~~

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