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December 4, 2002

Mr. Gordon Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001
By fax: b202-727-6072

Re: Letter in Opposition to Jemal's Wheel project, Application #16294 at 1701 Kalorama Rd. NW:
—Variance from loading berth requirements of Section 2201
—Special exception from the maximum permitted height requirements under Section 1403.1

To Chairman Griffis and to the other members of the BZA:

I am writing to the BZA to oppose the special exception and variance noted above with respect to the project for 1701 Kalorama Road, NW. As currently proposed (57' plus roof structure), the project will violate the tenets of the Reed-Cooke Overlay District, and wil have a negatime impact on the community.

In the winter of the year 2000 we decided to leave New York to be closer to our children and grandchildren who had long been urging us to move close by in Northern Virginia. For many years we had a house and garden on a lovely and quiet tree-lined street in Great Neck, Long Island, and we wanted to find an apartment that had many of the qualities we loved but in an urban setting and offering an equivalent quality of life.

At first we looked intensively in nearby Virginia. Soon we realized that were we to settle there, we would have to accept life in a box in an ugly glass and concrete tower, surrounded by other glass and concrete buildings, with traffic congestion night and day, that is, precisely the environment we desperately meant to avoid.

BZA
Case No. 16924
Exhibit No. 52

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16924
EXHIBIT NO.52

Then we started looking in the District, rejecting what did not correspond to our design for living. Then one Sunday, our realtor called and said: "I've found your apartment." We suspected she was right the moment we parked in front of Meridian House and walked across to 1661 Crescent Place—a lovely and quiet tree-lined street. When we walked into apartment #401, we knew she was right. We loved the light from the windows, the unimpeded view across the city, the cathedral in the distance, the gardens below.

Now we are faced with the construction of a building—1701 Kalorama—which threatens destruction of much that brought us to the neighborhood in the first place. A building tall beyond the norms for the neighborhood, to cut off view and light, to bring serious traffic congestion into the narrow streets of the neighborhood.

We do not believe that the community can or should tell an owner how a parcel of land must be developed And we do not judge that the community is trying to oblige the developer to choose between residential and commercial development, Indeed we personally support either as enhancing the neighborhood, so long as it is carried out according to the guidelines laid down for the neighborhood.

In conclusion, the danger is not just that one building be allowed to grow to unsightly, obstructive proportions. The danger is to the integrity of the neighborhood, setting a precedent for other, similar variances to a code carefully drawn up to protect that integrity. Thus the quality of life many of us came here to find is seriously threatened by Mr. Jamal's project as it stands, and we urge you to reject his request for a variance.

Sincerely yours,

Avriel and Arnold Goldberger