September 26, 2002

DC Office of Zoning
Suite 210 South
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 16836

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in full support of The Washington Home & Community Hospice's application to add four beds to its inpatient hospice unit and additional needed parking for employees and visitors.

As the Human Resources Manager for The Washington Home, it is apparent that commuting to and from work in the District of Columbia is a big issue for potential candidates. Candidates want to know that they have options for their commute, including driving their own car and parking on the premises. This issue is compounded by the fact that Registered Nurses are in such short supply, making recruiting and retention of nurses critical. I know offering free parking does not seem like it should be a recruitment tool, but it is a reality in DC, and nurses expect it. So when potential staff show up for their interviews in the middle of the day and there is no parking to be found, their first question is: "Is there enough parking for the staff?" This does not make an already difficult recruitment process easier.

Our mission is to "provide quality health-care and end of life services, with compassion and innovation, to foster dignity and independence in those we serve." Worrying about parking and parking tickets does not help us support this mission. I think our neighbors should consider the quality and need for the care that we provide, as well as remember that they live in a thriving city that is going to change and evolve. The changes proposed by The Washington Home are a small piece of this evolution and will be completed with care and understanding of the surroundings.

Please approve The Home's application for additional parking spaces and hospice beds so that we can continue to provide excellent services to our residents and the community.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Sutherland
Human Resources Manager
The Washington Home & Community Hospices

BZA
Case No. 16936
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16936
EXHIBIT NO.33