The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, PHA
District of Columbia Incorporated
Masonic Temple, 1000 U Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001 — (202) 462-8878
(24-Hour Answering Service) — (202) 462-8877
Fax — (202) 265-5620

November 19, 2002

Mr. Geoffrey Giffif, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Room 200
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Case #16938

Dear Chairman Giffif:

Thank you for your favorable consideration of the application submitted by our organization referenced above. I have enclosed a prospectus of Prince Hall Free Masons in the District of Columbia. It paints a clear picture of our origin and the services we provide to the community.

We continue to be an icon of service for more than 150 years in Washington, D.C. The Shaw Community has been our home for the majority of this time span. Numerous business, religious and civic leaders, including the Honorable Mayor Anthony Williams, are members of our fraternity.

We meet at 1000 U Street, NW to strategize on ways to help improve the quality of life for all citizens of Washington, D. C., in general; and advance the well-being of Shaw residents in particular. It is from here that we extend our charitable arm to provide service and uplift to all mankind.

Our parking lot is an essential component in helping meet our goals. It is also important to a harmonious co-existence with the residents of the Shaw Community. We are cognizant of the fact that residential parking is of major concern. The parking lot serves to help meet and bring a resolve to that sensitive issue. By members of our organization utilizing the parking lot, residents have greater access to the streets near their dwellings.

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 NOV 20 PM 12: 12

We have gone to great lengths to maximize the use of the space allotted for parking. We are constantly finding ways to ensure that its appearance is attractively and professionally maintained. Its recent modifications are parallel with the residential and commercial renovations being made in the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our case.

Sincerely yours,

John Ellington Jr.

John Ellington, Jr.
Most Worshipful Grand Master

BZA
Case No. 16938
Exhibit No. 25

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16938
EXHIBIT NO.25

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, PHA
District of Columbia Incorporated
Masonic Temple, 1000 U Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001 — (202) 462-8878
(24-Hour Answering Service) — (202) 462-8877
Fax — (202) 265-5620

WHO WE ARE

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was established in 1848. Boasting some 5000 members, the Grand Lodge is located at 1000 U Street, NW, Washington, D.C. as is headed by The Honorable John Ellington, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master, and conservator of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the District of Columbia.

Freemasonry is an age-old organization whose goal is "to make good men better men." Its principal tenets and precepts are friendship, morality, brotherly and sisterly love, and charity. We help the poor, the less fortunate, the under privilege, the youth, and community outreach programs of the City.

Prince Hall Freemasonry differs from other Masonic Groups only in its origin. It was started by Prince Hall, a black man, who became a member of a Masonic Lodge in Boston and wanted to start a Lodge for black men in America. Rebuffed in his efforts, Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasonry in England for charter, which was granted on September 29, 1784 by the Duke of Cumberland. This gave rise to Lodge 459, later known as African Lodge. The African Grand Lodge was formed in 1791 and other Grand Lodges were formed in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Today, the Prince Hall Sodality is composed of 46 Grand Lodges located in the United States, the Bahamas, Canada, the Caribbean, and Liberia.

WHAT WE DO AS MASONS AND EASTERN STARS

The Prince Hall Masonic Family of the District of Columbia, consisting of Masonic Lodges, our sister Eastern Star Chapters, and other affiliated Masonic organizations, work constantly to establish and maintain a purposeful community presence.

STUDENT MENTORING AND SUPPORT

Scholarship Program - We have provided scholarship grants to support those students who may not have gone to college or their families would have faced a hardship trying to pay their tuition. This program was started in 1957 with $3,000 in scholarships. Today, some 45 years later, we have contributed over $1.3 million to over 3,500 students. We now contribute an average of $70,000 annually to deserving students in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

Adopt A School Program - This program was started more than 20 years ago. The Lodges and Chapters purchase and distribute schools supplies to selected students based on information from the schools and families. This program can be credited with helping children from low-income families stay in school. We provide consultants, tutors, monitors, readers, guides, receipts for education, and other needed services. We have provided truckloads of supplies for student and school use. A listing of schools receiving such benefits include:

- Garrison Elementary School
  1200 S St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Garnett-Patterson Middle School
  2001 10th St., NW
  Washington, DC

- John Phillip Sousa Middle School
  3650 Ely Place, SE
  Washington, DC

- Marie Reed Learning Center
  18th St., NW
  Washington, DC

Experience Corps -The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia entered into a partnership with Experience Corps headquartered at 1726 12th St., NW in the Thurgood Marshall Building. This partnership was established to assist in helping young boys in the 5th and 6th grades with their studies and to provide mentoring. Most of the boys we tutor and mentor do not have fathers or come from drug-devastated families. We currently provide an estimated 15 hours per week at the **James G. Birney Elementary** School located at 2501 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE in the Barry Farms area of Southeast DC. One of the key principles of our organization is service to the community and we have found that Experience Corps affords us an excellent opportunity to fulfill our mission. We assist with classes on field trips, help students in the spelling bee program, help students in Science Fair projects, and mentor/tutoring & cross-pollination.

STUDENT MENTORING AND SUPPORT

More Involvement in the City's Schools – listed below are a few of the projects in which we partnered with D.C. Public Schools to provide a safe learning environment for our students as well as make financial contributions:

- Hands on D C Project
  T. C. Hart Middle School
  601 Mississippi Ave, SE
  Washington, DC

- Adopt A School Project
  Ann Beers Elementary
  3600 Alabama Ave, SE
  Washington, DC

- Donation for needy families
  Shade Elementary School
  301 Douglas Street, NE
  Washington, DC

- Donation for School's closing party
  Ruth K. Webb Elementary
  1375 Mt. Olivet Rd, NE
  Washington, DC

Knights of Pythagoras (Boys between the ages of 8-18) organized under the direction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in 1977. This is an organization of young boys, who are supervised by Master Masons. The primary objective is the development of our youth spiritually, mentally and physically. The boys do community outreach programs like visiting and taking Christmas Baskets to the Hospital for Sick/Cripple Children, as well as assist in packaging and delivery of food baskets to needy families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Phyllis S Byrd Youth Fraternity, Order of the Eastern Star (girls and boys between the ages of 5-18), was formally organized in 1956 under the direction of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. In 1990 and each year thereafter, they have contributed $1,500 or more to the DC Boarder Babies project. They also perform many other community outreach programs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Clothing/Shoe/Meal Drives - Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters have worked in concert for many years to provide new or clean clothes for needy children and adults through out the community in the Washington Metropolitan area. Listed below are a few of the Washington-based organizations that have received donations from the numerous drives sponsored to assist the indigent and those who are transitioning from welfare to the workplace as well as those who were recently released from incarceration and finding their way into the workforce:

- S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat)
  1307 1st Street, NW
  Washington, DC

- People's Involvement Corporation
  1100 1st St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Kennedy Center's Children's Christmas Project
  New Hampshire Ave & Rock Creek Pkwy, NW
  Washington, DC

- House of Ruth
  71 O St., NW
  Washington, DC

- House of Imagene for Homeless Women
  214 P St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Martha's Table
  2114 14th St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Habitat for Humanity
  1200 U St., SE
  Washington, DC

- Spring Road Family Center
  1433-1435 Spring Road, NW
  Washington, DC

- Big Cover Up Campaign
  Sponsored By District of Columbia Government
  Washington, DC

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Bread of Life Program - This program began in June 1999. It was created to distribute bread and other bakery good to the community. We give and deliver baked goods each and every Saturday of the week. We feel that this is giving back to the community in some small way. We deliver to seven churches throughout the city. Five homeless shelters are on board and also actively participating in the program. Four Senior Citizens Homes are also regular recipients of bread donation. Members of Howard University Student Body are regularly assisting with the distribution of bread at the Masonic Temple and around the campus area. Martha's Table regularly receives bread from our program. Members of the Adams Morgan community are now recipients of bread. In our recruitment efforts, new churches are coming on board. High school students earning their community service hours toward graduation, old friends and new friend alike are active and supportive members in this labor of love. To date, year 2002, we have distributed well over 1 million loaves of bread and other bakery products.

Volunteer for Hospitals -Many of our retirees transport patients to and from hospitals. Other volunteers use of their 4-wheel drive vehicles during the winter when we have deep snow to carry doctors and nurses to and from area hospitals. They are not paid for this service that helps save lives.

Holiday Food Baskets – Collectively, Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars distribute more than 500 Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets each year to needy families throughout the city. Each basket is filled with a turkey and all the trimmings for a bountiful feast.

SHARE Program – Invested several hundreds of dollars to assist needy families afford food on a monthly basis. Partnered to donate food shares to Washington residents.

HEALTH AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

American Red Cross Blood Bank - We began working with the American Red Cross in 1952 unofficially. In 1975, we donated 185 pints of blood. Today, we have at least three bloodmobiles annually at the Masonic Temple and average giving just over 100 pints. One year, we donated an estimated 441 pints of blood. We rank near the top of the donors' list for organizations our size. Many families have benefited from blood donated by our organization.

Annual Health Fair – The Fair consists of Health Education on Cancer, Diabetes, Smoke Cessation, Heart Disease, Alzheimer's Nutrition, HIV-AIDs, Hypertension, Arthritis, and Organ Transplant. At this fair, we provide Health screenings for Blood Pressure, Glaucoma, Sickle cell Anemia, Glucose, Cholesterol, and Bone Marrow. Further, Health seminars on Prostrate, Breast & Colon Rectal Cancers are provided. The fair is held in the Masonic Temple and the public is encouraged to attend.

Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center - We have established a partnership with the Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center as part of its Prostate Cancer Awareness Program. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Lombardi Cancer Center of the Georgetown University Medical Center have been working together for the past 4 years on a project designed to increase African American men's knowledge of prostate cancer and prostate screening. We have focused on gaining creative ideas for our educational videotape and brochure on prostate health, prostate cancer, and prostate screening. Both the video and the brochure are designed specifically for African American men.

Breast Cancer Walk - The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star began a 5K Breast Cancer Awareness Program in 2001. The Breast Cancer Awareness Walk is to raise funds for breast cancer research. Information is constantly made available regarding prevention and detection. This is a partnership project with Howard University Hospital. We have donated thousands of dollars to date for research.

Greater Southeast Community Hospital – Assisted in transporting and registering participants in their Annual Health Fair.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Hospital for Sick Children – Seventeen (17) wheelchairs, crutches, medical supplies, school supplies and monetary donations were made to this Washington D.C. facility during the 2002 year. Contributions along with visits are made regularly throughout the year.

Boarder Babies Project – Financial contributions are annually made to this project sponsored by the Howard University Hospital for babies who are born with deficiencies from mothers who have abused drugs or infected with the HIV virus.

Chi Child Care Center – Yearly contributions of baby clothes, supplies and monetary donations are made to the District of Columbia facility that cares for infants, toddlers, and children who are either abandoned are surrendered as a result of court order.

Other Financial Contributions – The following national organizations have been benefactors of the charitable contributions of Brothers and Sisters of the Prince Hall Family totaling over $10,000.00 annually:

- American Kidney Foundation
- March of Dimes
- Mental Retardation Association
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF)
- National Leukemia and Lymphoma Association
- American Diabetes Association

These organizations work to improve the physical and socio-economic quality of living for all Americans.

ELDER CARE INITIATIVES

Senior Citizens Home - We are currently working with the DC Government to start construction of a Senior Citizens Home at Fort Lincoln New Town. This will be a major accomplishment for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. We started this project in 1997. Delays in this project are due to water levels in the area from the adjacent Anacostia River. The DC Government is working to correct this problem.

Nursing Home Partnerships

- Stoddard Nursing Home - Donated toiletries for Christmas in June Project
  1818 Newton St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Washington Center for Aging – Serve as frequent volunteers upon demand
  2601 18th St., NE
  Washington, DC

- Asbury Senior Dwelling – Provide meals from Bread of Life Program
  1616 Marion St., NW
  Washington, DC

- Pearl Enterprises, USA – Performed basic maintenance at senior dwelling in SE, DC.
  Potomac Ave, SE
  Washington, DC

- J. B. Johnson Nursing Center – Granted gifts from senior residents wish list.
  901 1st St., NW
  Washington, DC

CIVIC & RELIGIOUS PARTNERSHIPS

NAACP - We started a progressive membership drive with the NAACP dating back to the early 1950s. To this date, we have continually held membership drives annually in support o this worthwhile organization. Many individuals and organizations from this Prince Hall Masonic Family purchased lifetime memberships.

Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club – We take an active role in both donating to and spending time with children sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs. Outings to sporting events, mentoring and other recreational activities are planned by the Brothers for these energetic youngsters.

Simpson- Hamline United Methodist Church – We co-sponsored a Summer Youth Camp for students who would have otherwise not experience any cultural enlightenment or structured recreational activities. The church is located at 4501 16th St., NW, Washington, DC.

Mt. Zion United Church – The city's oldest church is currently undergoing a renovation project to preserve its rich history and legacy. A generous monetary donation was made to assist in the efforts with a promise to donate 'man-hours' to the project. The church is located at 1334 29th St., NW, Washington, DC.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church – Assisted in preparing and serving food for the community's homeless throughout the year. The church is located at 5101 14th St., NW, Washington, DC.

District of Columbia Recreation Department – Donated school supplies and trophies for students' after school programs as well as summer athletic leagues.

About My Father's Business Outreach Ministries – Sponsored annual clothing drive for indigent Washington residents. The Ministry is located at 411 New York Ave, NE, Washington, DC.