WARD 4

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B08

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BARRINGTON D. SCOTT,I
ANC-4B & 4B CHAIR OF THE WHOLE

12/21/02

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Mr. Geoffrey H. Giffif
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
D.C. Government Washington DC 20001

Reference: BZA Case No. 16938

Dear Chairman Giffif,

I am writing in support of the zoning relief sought after by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. Inc. of the District of Columbia, under reference case number 16938. Many members of my community, who are Masons and Order of the Eastern Star, have express great concerns about this request for special exception. It should be noted for the record, that this organization has been apart of the Shaw community since 1848 and has been at its current location since 1929. In fact, the organization is comprised with a membership of more than 5000 men and women. A majority of its members reside in the District of Columbia, and are over the age of 50 years. They attend meetings, conduct business and encourage visits to the recently dedicated Black Civil War Memorial, which is adjacent to the aforementioned site. Many members find that the parking lot, which has been exempt to permit parking, and has been owned by the organization for years, serves as a necessity to the countless senior members who enjoy being active and noteworthy in our community. We are very aware of the change in demographics and the rapid growth to the U St. corridor, however should we ignore the health concerns of our senior population and there safety to walk countless blocks due to the increase presence of bars, restaurants, retail stores and new business ventures.

Should not a civic organization of the District of Columbia who's roots date back more than a century and a half ago, and has been an integral part of this Nation's Capital not be afforded this small request. As a native Washingtonian, a Prince Hall Master Mason and an elected official, I know first-hand that the grounds of this purposed change, ranks extremely high among the concerns citizens of the Lamond Community. I'm asking that you and your committee continue to support the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. Inc of the District of Columbia, by granting the exception it needs for the use of their parking lot.

Thank you and your committee in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barrington D. Scott, I
ANC-4B08 & 4B-Chair of the Whole

BZA
Case No. 16938
Exhibit No. 28

cc. Adrain Fenty,Esq.
Ward 4 Councilmember

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16938
EXHIBIT NO.28