BZA 16974

SNIDER & ASSOCIATES
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
1054 31ST STREET, N.W.
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007 U.S.A.

Ronald R. Snider **TELEPHONE 202-347-2600**

sniderpatent@yahoo.com **FACSIMILE 202-347-7870**

August 12, 2003 **VIA FACSIMILE**

Gordon C. Wilson
Hogan and Hartson
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

By FaX 202-637-5910, by First Class Postage

Re: BZA No 16974

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL RECORDS

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I hereby request that you provide me with (1) a copy of the 2002 Tudor Place tax return, (2) other financial information for the year 2002 which Tudor Place will rely upon in its claim that limitations on Dower House will "have a devastating effect on the ability of Tudor Place to carry on its core educational functions and maintain financial viability" (Buhler Statement), and (3) financial records relied upon by Ms. Buhler when she wrote the "View Point" in the Georgetown Current on June 25, 2003 (copy attached).

Very truly yours,

Ronald R. Snider
for 31st. St. Parties

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the 31st. St. Parties "REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL RECORDS was served on August 12, 2003 upon:

BZA
Case No. 16974
Exhibit No. 126

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 16974
EXHIBIT NO. 126

Gordon C. Wilson
Hogan and Hartson
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
By FaX 202-637-5910, by First Class Postage

Donald W. Crocket
3070 Q Street
By HAND

Norton Katz
1671 32nd Street, N.W.
By HAND

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning
441 4th Street;, N.W.
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001
By First Class Postage

Tudor Place works hard to be good stewart

VIEWPOINT

LESLIE BUHLER

In response to the June 11 Georgetown Current editorial, Don Crockett once again is painting a picture of Tudor Place that is, to say the least, inaccurate. In a desperate attempt to find support for his radical positions, Mr. Crockett wants Georgetowners to believe that Tudor Place Foundation seeks to become a commercial venue with multiple events involving hundreds of people, raucous parties, conferences and loud music. In doing so, Mr. Crockett also makes assertions about Tudor Place's financial condition and needs and suggests that our financial needs result from "unnecessary employees" who conduct "unnecessary activities."

We are once again compelled to respond to Mr. Crockett's misinformation campaign. For years, Mr. Crockett has fought the conditions under which Tudor Place has operated, and in spite of making the conditions increasingly more restrictive, nothing has appeased him.

While Mr. Crockett labels Tudor Place a "proposed party and conference center" that will have "hundreds of people show up on the front lawn ... two or three times a week," he is well aware that the proposed application limits such functions to two per year.

Mr. Crockett also complains about outdoor music while knowing full well that there is an outright prohibition on amplified outdoor music in our application. He similarly complains about parking problems while ignoring extensive off-site valet parking requirements contained in our application. Unlike Mr. Crockett, the advisory neighborhood commission understands our application for what it is, and accordingly supports it unanimously.

Mr. Crockett indicates that, because there are two trust funds with combined assets of $7.9 million, our financial situation is just fine. If Mr. Crockett checked our 2002 tax return, he would see a $63,000 loss for the foundation as a whole. So far in 2003, the foundation is operating at a deficit.

What Mr. Crockett fails to acknowledge is that the trust funds are separate entities from the Tudor Place Foundation and that the principal cannot be invaded. The declining yields in the trust funds and the contraction in their value compound the situation. Perhaps Mr. Crockett would like to donate the cost of insurance that has skyrocketed as a result of Sept. 11, 2001. Perhaps he would like to pay the utilities bills that totaled $38,200 in 2002.

In indicating that we hire "frivolous staff," Mr. Crockett reveals his ignorance concerning what is required in the professional field of historic house management. Perhaps he'd like to tell the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Park Service about how historic sites should be managed. They all think Tudor Place is doing a stellar job of managing the site and fund us for special conservation and historic research projects.

Does Mr. Crockett really think that Tudor Place Foundation is seeking to destroy his neighborhood? That traffic and parking are intolerable?

Because of Tudor Place there are 32 parking spaces on 31st Street that are sparingly used by visitors to Tudor Place. Because of Tudor Place there are more than five acres of green space and quiet corners for neighbors to sit and stroll. Do these benefits, when taken together with the very limited number of events that Tudor Place holds, constitute destruction of a neighborhood? What about events hosted by residents in neighboring homes? What about other museums, galleries and businesses?

In 1986, Dumbarton Oaks had 49,000 annual visitors. Tudor Place has only 15,000 total people come to the site for visits, tours, education programs and open houses. By far, Tudor Place causes less disruption while bringing so much to the historic fabric of Georgetown.

One neighbor said, "Why is Don always against everything?" That is a good question.

The editors of The Current are right; if Tudor Place cannot have some flexibility in raising funds and has its operations so curtailed that the foundation cannot be a good steward of the site, then more drastic actions will have to be taken. Perhaps Mr. Crockett would like to take credit for that.

Leslie Buhler is executive director of the Tudor Place Foundation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

forced this upon the commission prematurely, and volunteer tennis chair Paul Rosenbaum was able to

ed in the meeting that the issue is moot because of the lack of funds. The estimates made for lighting are $50,000 to $60,000, not $400,000-