FOGGY BOTTOM AND WEST END
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION (ANC-2A)
MARIA TYLER COMMISSIONER SMD-2A03

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BY FAX (442-4455) AND MAIL

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June 4, 2002

Mr. Denzil L. Noble
Acting Zoning Administrator
Building and Land Regulation Administration
D. C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 2000
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Application for a Sidewalk Café at 924 25th Street, N.W.--the River Inn

Dear Mr. Noble:

I would like to thank you and your colleague, Mr. Leonard Douglas, for your roles in the hearing of the Public Space Committee on May 23, 2002 on the above case.

This application was the first of its kind in my 20 plus years as elected ANC Commissioner for the Single Member District in which the River Inn is located. It was a difficult case, since it involved several D.C. Municipal Regulations, government planning objectives, and DC departments and agencies.

I was fortunate that, thanks to the good offices of Ms. Leila Franklin, Deputy Director for Compliance and Enforcement, I was able to meet with you and Mr. Douglas to present our request for outstanding information on the above application. So often, developer applicants have well-paid lawyers who obtain access to the relevant departments in the administration while unpaid and overburdened Commissioners, like myself, are scrambling around to research and interpret applicable regulations, mostly without any assistance. I was therefore grateful to be able to tell you and Mr. Douglas in person about our frequent difficulties in getting the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia properly enforced in our community.

You listened to our concerns, applied the regulations to this case and promptly issued a letter, which presented your findings in a clear and unequivocal way.

From your letter and the focused testimony of Mr. Douglas at the hearing, we are encouraged to believe that the ANC input may have been useful to you in coming to a conclusion that succinctly interpreted the Zoning Regulations in this case and was in line with the land use policies of the District. We were not surprised that the applicant, following the Committee members' statements and ANC-2A's testimony, decided to withdraw his application.

BZA
Case No. 16984
Exhibit No. 4

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16984
EXHIBIT NO.4

I hope that we can continue our cooperation on other cases in the future to ensure that the D..C. Municipal Regulations and laws as they relate to DCRA's responsibilities are properly enforced. In particular, the applicant in the above case stated at the hearing that he is proposing a large scale renovation, of which the application for a sidewalk café was presumably a part. ANC-2A would like to be sure that any renovation that is applied for is completely in line with the Zoning Regulations as they affect grandfathered hotels in purely residentially zoned areas, and I certainly wish to be in touch with you on this at an appropriate time.

Sincerely,

/s/
Maria Tyler

cc. Mr. David A. Clarke, Director, DCRA
Ms. Leila Franklin
Deputy Director for Compliance and Enforcement
Mr. J. Gregory Love
Administrator, Building & Land Regulation Administration