COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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May 19, 2003

Geoffery Griffis, Chairman
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW Room 201S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Geoffery:

I write to express my support for BZA application No. 17012 for zoning relief needed to allow the redevelopment of 1301 - 1309 9th Street, NW by Douglas Development. The subject property, located in the Shaw neighborhood of Ward 2, lies directly across N Street NW from the new Washington Convention Center. This redevelopment project would renovate the current 19th and early 20th century buildings and add new construction to create a mixed use development. This project is widely acknowledged as being the lynchpin in leveraging the District's $834 million investment in the new convention center to stimulate private investment and commercial revitalization along Shaw's historic commercial corridors.

Plans for this project have been presented to the community and have received the endorsement of the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC 2C, and that of the single member district commissioner in which the property is located. The plans are a result of substantial consultation with the staff of the DC Historic Preservation Office and have received concept approval from the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The renovation and reuse of commercial properties along 7th and 9th Streets in Shaw is a top priority for the community. This project represents the first major private investment intended to extend the commercial and economic activity generated by the new convention center further into the community that has been struggling to recover from decades of disinvestment and economic doldrums. This project will not only provide new retail opportunities for residents and visitors alike, but will create jobs and much needed housing as well.

I support this project and, therefore, ask that you grant the zoning relief requested.

BZA
Case No. 17012
Exhibit No. 38

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17012
EXHIBIT NO. 38

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Sincerely,

Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2

cc: Ellen McCarthy, DC Office of Planning
Alexander M. Padro, ANC 2C01