U.S. Depa. ent of Justice

Roscoe C. Howard, Jr.
United States Attorney

District of Columbia

Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

October 2, 2003

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairperson, Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Rm. 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 17016, 65 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing to urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the application filed on behalf of the District of Columbia by Safe Shores/The Children's Advocacy Center, seeking relief from the rear yard and roof structure enclosure and setback requirements of the zoning regulations. As part of the multidisciplinary team that will occupy the building, we are very excited about this project.

Due to the inadequate space of Safe Shores' current location, we are unable to co-locate our staff with other team members, which include the Metropolitan Police Department, D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency, and Children's National Medical Center. The proposed project will allow the entire multidisciplinary team to be located together, which would improve the team's ability to provide complete services to abused children immediately after it is reported or discovered. It would improve my Office's ability to be more efficient in our investigations and in making charging decisions in the cases presented at Safe Shores. Being able to relocate Safe Shores to the property at 65 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. would also allow the team to serve many more child victims and witnesses than the current facility can accommodate. Additionally, the location would be convenient to the U.S. Attorney's Office and to the D.C. Superior Court, which is vitally important to us.

The proposed project will provide a tremendous benefit not only to the neighborhood, but also to children throughout the city. The subject site is currently in need of repair and renovation. The grounds surrounding the property are run-down and littered with trash, resulting in an eyesore for the community. The proposed use of the property for the District of Columbia's Children's Advocacy Center is a true public/private partnership that will both aesthetically enhance the neighborhood, and will also improve the city's ability to protect our children who have been physically and sexually abused. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition, and urge the Board to approve the application filed by Safe Shores.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Higashi
Chief, Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section

BZA
Case No. 17016
Exhibit No. 30

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17016
EXHIBIT NO. 30