June 7, 2003

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
Suite 210-S
441 4th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

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REF: Application Number 17021 (Application of Estelle Goldman)

Dear Board Members:

I would like to register my objection to Ms. Estelle Goldman's request for the Board's approval to allow her retail and grocery/deli operation (7-11 Store) at 912 New Hampshire Ave., NW, to expand its hours of operation to 24 hours daily.

That retail business operates in a "residential" neighborhood. Although I have little objection to its continued operation within the timeframe of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. daily, that business is already a cause of concern for the protected Historic Foggy Bottom neighborhood.

Trash containers are provided on the front of the premises; however, they are often overloaded and the general appearance of the property is "trashy." (It is interesting to observe that while Ms. Goldman's request is pending, the property is being maintained in a very neat manner.) Also, there is no customer parking available on the business' property which is located near a major intersection. Customers who drive to the store (including the police) routinely park illegally in front of it. That adds to serious traffic congestion at that site, and increases the risk of accidents.

More serious is the disturbance to sleeping residents that later hours of operation will cause. Foggy Bottom residents continue to struggle with student disturbances in and destruction of their community. Boisterous students are a common sight at the 7-11 Store in the evenings, much of them under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It does not take a rocket scientist to realize that later hours of operation will cause the location to become more of a gathering place for late night student partiers, and the disturbances will become unbearable for residents there. If you are not familiar with the amount of traffic and types of clientele a late night operating convenience store draws, please investigate before you make your decision.

BZA
Case No. 17021
Exhibit No. 34

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EXHIBIT NO. 34

Ms. Goldman's business is allowed to operate at its location under "nonconforming" circumstances for the zoning of the area. To approve expansion of the hours of operation, you would approve "conflicting" circumstances of advantage only to the business and an unhealthy situation for this protected neighborhood.

I respectfully request that, in the interest of the greater community, you deny Ms. Goldman's request for expanded hours of operation.

Sincerely yours,

Milton O. (Mel) Maeda
2531 "I" St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-2211
Tel. (202) 342-2244
Email melmaeda@prodigy.net