# Lydia Goring
# ANC 2C04
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July 25, 2003

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office Of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sirs:

I am writing regarding BZA Case No. 17035, application of Howard University Hospital, for zoning relief related to 915 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

When information on this project was presented to ANC 2C on November 6, 2002, ANC 2C did not have jurisdiction over the site in question. The building and the adjacent residential buildings were then within the boundaries of ANC 2F. The commission listened to the presentation by the applicant's representative, architect Edward M. Johnson, and asked the applicant to return after January 1, 2003, once a BZA application had been filed and the building was in ANC 2C's jurisdiction following redistricting. The commission could then properly provide notice of its meeting on the matter to affected residents in the area adjacent to the building in question, and vote on the matter at that time. The applicant's representative agreed to do so.

However, at ANC 2C's meeting on December 4, 2002, ANC 2C Chairman Leroy J. Thorpe, Jr., knowing that as a result of redistricting and the results of the November 2002 election, he would not command a majority on the commission after December 31, 2002, forced a vote on this matter, ignoring the commission's previous instructions to the applicant. Commissioner Thorpe refused to delay the vote in order to be able to hear from affected parties. He also refused to allow ANC 2C01 Commissioner Alexander M. Padro, in whose ANC Single Member District the building in question would be located after redistricting, to present information on community concerns expressed to him by the French Street Neighborhood Association, which represents residents directly adjacent to the building to be redeveloped.

BZA
Case No. 17035
Exhibit No. 36

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17035
EXHIBIT NO. 36

Because of the lack of jurisdiction and notice to residents, and because the commission had not heard from affected residents, I decided to abstain from the vote, resulting in the motion passing by a vote of three votes in favor, one vote against, and one abstention. If the commission were to take this matter up again, now that we have jurisdiction, I would vote to oppose Howard University Hospital's application unless the issues raised by the community were resolved to residents' satisfaction.

Because of the circumstances under which the ANC 2C vote to support this project was obtained, I do not believe that the Board of Zoning Adjustment should accord the ANC's vote the great weight that it would normally be given. I ask that the Board request that Howard University Hospital negotiate with the civic association and other affected property owners and stakeholders to address their concerns. If Howard University Hospital refuses to do so or is unable to obtain the community's support, then the Board should reject the application for zoning relief.

Sincerely,

Lydia Goring

Lydia Goring
Commissioner, ANC 2C04