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10 January, 2004

To: Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, chair, et al.
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W. –Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application no.- 17055

Dear Mr. Griffis,

My wife, Margaret Rubino, and I are writing to you about the proposed addition to the Knollwood facility.

When we moved into this house a few years ago, Margaret's mother visited and commented about our near proximity to Knollwood, or as she referred to it, to "the Army Distaff Hall." She added: "I sometimes wondered if I might end-up there one day ." As the daughter of the late General J. Lawton Collins, a World War II hero and former Army chief-of-staff, I suppose she would be eligible to live there, and among other thing she added how much she had always loved the grounds, and how lucky we were to live adjacent to a large block of land that was essentially "nondevelopable" (my quotation.) Meanwhile comes this proposal to build a HUGE new facility, way before the agreed-upon no-build limit, and ostensibly for Alzheimer's patients. The second thought we had immediately following the release of this proposal was: Yes, but is this a Trojan Horse for high-priced retirement apartments, or a similar extra use? And the removal of trees and paving of greenspace for, what else, parking spaces?

I realize that it is often the case that preliminary proposals ask for the moon and are then subsequently revised downwards , reflecting the "best deal they could get," however this seems to be a case where we need to separate the facts about potential medical need from potential crass opportunism. Now is when we citizens have need of careful and committed city government officials who will evaluate these proposals very carefully and help us to be responsible

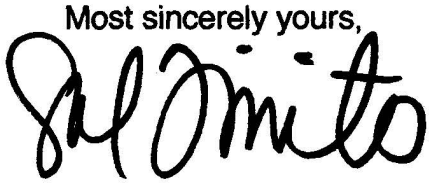
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Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 99

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 99

while avoiding irreparable mistakes. My own opinion? Table any changes for 5 years until the end of the current administration and re-consider under Mayor Fenty, or whoever, since I find it very difficult to believe that the afore-mentioned no-build time restriction could have been so short-sighted. Thus I am concerned that the city government help us full discovery of the facts and motivations.

Looking forward to the information and clarification you and your colleagues can provide us, and thanking you for your kind attention, I am

Most sincerely yours,



Sal Fiorito