2721 Unicorn Lane NW
Washington, DC 20015
December 22, 2003

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 210S
441 Fourth Street, NW
DC 20001

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are writing to oppose Application # 17055 filed by the Army Distaff Foundation which is seeking to build a five story building in the heart of my single-home neighborhood in Barnaby Woods.

As residents of the neighborhood for thirty-five years, we understood that the Army Distaff Foundation *had agreed to limit additional building* on the property currently called Knollwood. Now we have learned that the foundation proposes to add a five-story building on a portion of the property that abuts the backyards of single family homes on 29 Street and overlooks the single story homes on Stephenson Lane. The building, as planned, will be a large apartment house "in the faces" of small neighboring homes.

Aside from the visibility factor, the increase in traffic will be hazardous to the many children whose homes are on the bordering streets. Furthermore, the plan includes cutting an egress onto Tennyson Street that would lead to a large paved parking lot--currently this area is landscaped with old oak trees and shrubs, providing a shield from the building beyond. Thus under the new plan, homeowners on Tennyson Street would face a large parking lot; and the opening of the parking lot road would bring an influx of cars, trucks, and ambulances. (Currently, ambulances can be seen entering and exiting the property almost daily on Nebraska Avenue.)

Over the years we have had a good relationship with the residents of Knollwood, some of whom take daily walks past our houses. However, the *location* of the proposed new building on the periphery of the Knollwood campus, pressed up against single family dwellings, is a blight upon the neighborhood. We understand that neighbors have asked for mediation in the dispute, but that the Foundation has refused.

We ask that the Board of Zoning Adjustment reject the plan submitted by the Army Distaff Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia D. Maida

Peter R. Maida

CC: Chevy Chase ANC 3/4G
Knollwood Neighbors

BZA
Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 55

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 55