December 30, 2003
Larry Fenster & Gail McCallion
2730 Stephenson Lane, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W. – Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application No. 17055

Dear Chairman. Griffis:

My wife and I bought our house on Stephenson Lane a little over 2 years ago. The house directly abuts the Knollwood property. At the time of our purchase, we were concerned about the proximity to the already expansive Knollwood facility, and the possibility that it might increase in size when we were considering the purchasing of our house. But when we looked into the 1990 BZA Order that prohibited further construction until 2015, and read the language from the Office of Planning that permitted the 1990 expansion because that expansion was confined to the central spaces of the Knollwood property, we felt assured that: 1) we would not be confronted with any possible expansion for 13 years, and 2) that any expansion approved at that time would also be contained within the center of the very large Knollwood campus. We would not have purchased the house had we thought there was any possibility the BZA would seriously consider prematurely lifting its own moratorium or that the large buffer of trees between Stephenson Lane and the existing building would be removed.

We are now dismayed that Knollwood's planned expansion would eliminate most of the existing tree buffer that has ensured a measure of privacy between our house and the existing building. On top of that, the expansion would stretch approximately half the length of houses occupying Stephenson Lane, would come within approximately 90 feet of the street, and would house dozens of apartments that would have a direct view into our living room windows, and our front porch, where we spend nearly all of our leisure time when we are in our house.

We also believe it is possible for Knollwood to accommodate its residents with dementia by remaining within the center of its property and retaining the existing tree buffer, but Knollwood has so far refused to consider this accommodation. We therefore urge you to reject the existing proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

Larry Fenster + Gail McCallion

Larry Fenster & Gail McCallion

cc: Chevy Chase ANC 3/4G

BZA
Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 63

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 63