Reference Application No. 17055 by Army Distaff Foundation
Subject of this letter—Protest about a broken promise

January 6, 2004
6294-29th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20015

2004 JAN -6 PM 3:53

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

Dear Mr. Griffin

I live across from Knollwood. I was born in this neighborhood in 1938, and have lived elsewhere, but currently am in my inherited family home, where I have lived for 18 years. I am writing to protest the expansion of Knollwood.

This neighborhood for a long time has been a quiet, peaceful place, with little traffic. It looks like the planned construction project is going to bring a lot of dirt, noise, and traffic for a long time, and the result will apparently be, not just a beneficial home for people with medical problems, as the Knollwood side seems to be presenting, but a good real estate investment for Knollwood. Their new parking lot would be very near the corner where I live, on 29th and Tennyson. Even after the construction is over, in the long run it looks like more traffic and less peace, and perhaps a lowering of the value of my own property. What is to keep Knollwood from expanding still further? Apparently not the wishes of its neighbors.

It irks me that a promise was made about a decade ago, not to have such an expansion for 25 years. Promises seem cheap nowadays. Corporations promise to be ethical, and then rob us of millions of dollars. Electric companies promise no more blackouts, and then they cut corners as usual, blackouts happen, and we get more promises and more blackouts. Is this latest promise-breaking just another cynical case of business as usual? Sure looks like it. The promise about Knollwood had the effect of reducing concerns about construction noise and traffic and so on. Now these concerns are back with us. Has the promise been forgotten? Are people thinking, "To heck with the promise. Our legal staff can get around it"?

What recourse does the public have? That is why I am writing. Perhaps a promise can be kept.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

BZA
Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 71

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 71