GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

17080

August 4, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

As Director of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the work of Asian American LEAD.

Over the past five years I have become intimately familiar with the positive contributions made by Asian American LEAD (AALEAD) to members of the Asian American community living in the DC area. As a former member of the founding AALEAD board, I share AALEAD's vision of the community's needs and enthusiastically support their ongoing programs to provide solutions.

AALEAD is one of the most outstanding organizations serving the Asian community in Washington, DC. It is wonderful to see that they have been able to purchase a piece of property in Columbia Heights where a significant concentration of Asian Americans resides. I also want to comment specifically on the quality of leadership that is provided by AALEAD in the community. AALEAD's Executive Director, Ms. Sandy Dang, was selected by Washingtonian magazine as a Washingtonian of the Year. I know from my personal interaction with Ms. Dang that she is an extraordinary individual whose entire life is devoted to the betterment of the Asian people living in Columbia Heights, Mt Pleasant and Shaw. Under her leadership, AALEAD has become a home to many young people whose life has been positively impacted. She has also managed to attract an unusually talented group of staffers to help the youth. The kinds of programs that AALEAD sponsors, such as after school classes, mentoring, family support services, etc. are low impact programs as far as the neighborhood is concerned. I believe Ms. Dang and her board are committed to being good neighbors with those people living close to them on Girard and Harvard Streets.

I therefore wholeheartedly welcome the arrival of Asian American LEAD on a permanent basis in the District and support its effort to create a successful community center through working in partnership with its neighborhoods. If you have any questions about AALEAD, do not hesitate to call me on (202) 727-3120.

Sincerely,

Greg Chen

BZA
Case No. 17080
Exhibit No. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17080
EXHIBIT NO. 28