CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY
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12 December 2003

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning
Suite 210
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA# 17100

Dear Director Kress,

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society Zoning Committee at a meeting held on 11 December 2003 considered the above case. The case involves the application of Jesus Is The Way Church for a variance to allow a coffee shop at 129 15th Street, N.E. The applicant did not appear at the meeting because there was a conflict with the ANC meeting at the same time.

The Committee voted unanimously to support the application upon the condition that the variance is granted for three years. The building in questions is a one-story commercial structure in what was, at one time, a strip of commercial properties along the 15th Street corridor. The block has become a hangout for drug dealers who use the two convenience stores at either end of the block as places to loiter in. The neighborhood is strongly split over the coffee shop. Some fear that it will become an additional loitering spot for the drug market, while others think that it will discourage such activity since the operator of the shop is married to a police officer. The Committee notes that a coffee shop is a more preferable use for this property than its previous use but is concerned about the drug market. For this reason the Committee believes that a variance for three years and then a reassessment of the situation is in order.

Respectfully,

Gary M. Peterson, Chair
Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Zoning Committee

CC: Sandra Douglas

BZA
Case No. 17100
Exhibit No. 24

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17100
EXHIBIT NO. 24