

February 16, 2004

D. Troy Boucher
Jeffrey E Morrow
1852 Columbia Road, NW, Unit 203
Washington, DC 20009

Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chairman,
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment 441
4th Street, N.W., Suite 220-South
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Dear Mr. Griffis:

Re: BZA Appeal #17109

We are the owners of a cooperative unit at 1852 Columbia Road, N.W. We are writing to indicate support of the Kalorama Citizens Association Appeal of the issuance of construction permits at 1819 Belmont Road. Our building, zoned C-2-B, faces Columbia Road, and is within 200 feet of the property involved. Our board, with some members belonging to the Kalorama Citizens Association, has voted to support this appeal as well.

Our apartment building is six stories high, an appropriate height for a street of the width of Columbia Road. We are pleased with the blend of large apartment houses, mostly at points along our major streets, and the smaller buildings, mostly rowhouses, on the side streets.

The project at 1819 Belmont Rd, is not only tall, blocking views for many of us, but it is a development that by its design utterly disrespects the character of the neighborhood. It describes itself, with its advertising sign, as lofts. But it is not a reconstruction of an industrial building or a newly designed loft building clearly in a loft style similar to the "Lofts" development a block away in an area where there were and still are some industrial buildings. This is a residential neighborhood of handsome rowhouses and apartment houses. The developers have ruined a turn of the century rowhouse, one that blended well with its neighbors prior to its being ruined with this thoughtless development.

We believe the Height Act and the Zoning Regulations should not and do not allow such a structure on Belmont Road. We urge the Board to require remedial steps to bring the height of the building down.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

D. Troy Boucher

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BZA
Case No. 17109
Exhibit No. 34