Hon. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW – Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

2/10/04

Ref: Application # 1711 2412 17th St. NW

Dear Chairman Griffis,

I am an Adams Morgan resident and have lived there for 20 years. I have seen the neighborhood develop in fits and starts, with the rise and fall of the economy. The area around 17th and Kalorama has been particularly blighted and slow to change.
I have known Joe Kisha for six years and been to his building. I thought it took some courage and perseverance for him to hang in there, living in an otherwise empty building, unlike other developers who only arrive on the scene when things start changing.
The apartments are very, very old-fashioned, the building is damp and the floors tilt at various angles, it certainly would take more than a coat of paint to get it back to livable. In fact the whole configuration of the apartments is so old-fashioned that modern buyers would hardly be interested.
The Board is concerned about the high FAR, but this plan is not unseemly or incongruous, as some other building that have somehow passed District Government scrutiny and been built. We in Adams Morgan would be the first to protest if it were.
The work that Mr. Kisha has put into the planning of the renovation has been considerable. I have seen him present his plans at many community meetings and I have seen him compromise to make the development work.
All this has been going on during a period of great growth in the housing stock in Adams Morgan – particularly in the high-end market. What I like about Mr. Kisha's plan is that his apartments will accommodate a middle market. The apartments will provide housing at more affordable prices. I hope that this will bring some life to a long dark part of the neighborhood.
Please support this application and let's keep bringing people back to live in the city.

Respectfully,

Val Morgan
Resident
Adams Morgan

BZA
Case No. 17111
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17111
EXHIBIT NO. 33