The Downtown Cluster of Congregations

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Feb. 24, 2004

Chairperson Geoff Griffis and Members
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW #210S
Washington, DC 20001

re: Application #17122 - The Newseum at 555 Penn Ave. NW

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members,

I wish to express my strong support for this application. I do so with great appreciation for the requirements set forth by the Downtown Development District for the site, as I was one of the authors of those guidelines and this agency was one of 3 that brought that zoning case.

This site has several unique factors that merit the requested relief. I believe the property line configuration, the adjacent embassy use, setback needs for achieving continuity, and design goals for the prominent site necessitate the prudent adoption of the variances requested. I do not believe that the arcade, street wall, or roof structure variances will in any way compromise the integrity of the design and impact of the structure for achieving the overall goals for the site. The variances will in fact make fully possible the achievement of the best overall design and uses for the site.

I am very pleased by the Newseum's ongoing commitment to provide a payment in lieu of property taxes, incorporation of a mixed-use project inclusive of retail and residential along with the museum use, and their efforts to achieve local hiring and significant LSDBE goals.

I appreciate your efforts in helping to make this a world class project that will benefit the city for decades to come.

BZA
Case No. 17122
Exhibit No. 27

Respectfully,

Terrance Lynch
Executive Director

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17122
EXHIBIT NO. 27