GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

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**Application No. 17122 of Freedom Forum, Inc.**, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3104.1, for a special exception from the roof structure requirements under section 411, and pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3103.2, for a variance from the width of court requirements under subsection 776.1, a variance from the arcade requirements under subsection 1701.2, a variance from the street wall requirements under subsection 1701.3, to permit the development of a mixed-use building including the Newseum, retail, an apartment house and offices in the DD/C-4 District at premises 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (Square 491, Lots 826 and 831).

**HEARING DATE:** March 9, 2004
**DECISION DATE:** March 9, 2004 (Bench Decision)

## SUMMARY ORDER

**SELF-CERTIFIED**

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3113.2.

The Board provided proper and timely notice of public hearing on this application by publication in the D.C. Register and by mail to the Applicant, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6C, and to owners of all property within 200 feet of the property that is the subject of this application. The application was also referred to the Office of Planning (OP). The OP submitted a report in support of the application. The subject property is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 6C. ANC 6C submitted a letter in support of the application.

As directed by 11 DCMR § 3119.2, the Board required the applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case for special exceptions pursuant to 11 DCMR §§ 3104.1 and 441, and variances under 11 DCMR § 3103.2 from the strict application of the requirements of §§ 776.1, 1701.2, and 1701.3. No party appeared at the public hearing in opposition to this application or otherwise requested to participate as a party in this proceeding. Accordingly, a decision by the Board to grant this application would not be adverse to any party.

The Board closed the record at the conclusion of the hearing. Based upon the record before the Board, and having given great weight to the Office of Planning and ANC reports filed in this case, the Board concludes that the applicant has met

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the burden of proof pursuant to 11 DCMR §§ 3104.1, for a special exception under section 411, that the requested relief can be granted as in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map and will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Map.

The Board also concludes that the applicant has met its burden of proof under 11 DCMR §§ 3103.2, 776.1, 1701.2, and 1701.3, that there exists an exceptional or extraordinary situation or condition related to the property that creates a practical difficulty for the owner in complying with the Zoning Regulations, and that the requested relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent, purpose, and integrity of the zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Map. It is therefore **ORDERED** that the application is **GRANTED**.

Pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3101.6, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR § 3125.3, that the order of the Board be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The waiver will not prejudice the rights of any party, and is appropriate in this case.

**VOTE: 5-0-0** (Geoffrey H. Griffis, David A. Zaidain, Curtis L. Etherly, Jr., Ruthanne G. Miller and John G. Parsons to approve).

**BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**
Each concurring member has approved the issuance of this Order.

**ATTESTED BY:** _____
**JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA**
**Director, Office of Zoning**

**FINAL DATE OF ORDER:** MAR 16 2004

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125.6, THIS ORDER WILL BECOME FINAL UPON ITS FILING IN THE RECORD AND SERVICE UPON THE PARTIES. UNDER 11 DCMR § 3125.9, THIS ORDER WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE TEN DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3130, THIS ORDER SHALL NOT BE VALID FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE UNLESS, WITHIN SUCH TWO-YEAR PERIOD, THE APPLICANT FILES PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125 APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE APPROVAL OF THE PLANS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE (OR ADDITION THERETO) OR THE RENOVATION OR ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING OR STRUCTURE, UNLESS THE BOARD ORDERS OTHERWISE. AN APPLICANT SHALL CARRY OUT THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, OR ALTERATION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY FULLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, D.C. LAW 2-38, AS AMENDED, AND THIS ORDER IS CONDITIONED UPON FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE PROVISIONS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.C. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, AS AMENDED, D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 2-1401.01 ET SEQ., (ACT) THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, FAMILIAL STATUS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, MATRICULATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, DISABILITY, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF SEX DISCRIMINATION WHICH IS ALSO PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. IN ADDITION, HARASSMENT BASED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PROTECTED CATEGORIES IS ALSO PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION. THE FAILURE OR REFUSAL OF THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY SHALL FURNISH GROUNDS FOR THE DENIAL OR, IF ISSUED, REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER. RSN

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**BZA APPLICATION NO. 17122**

As Director of the Office of Zoning, I hereby certify and attest that on MAR 16 2004 a copy of the order entered on that date in this matter was mailed first class, postage prepaid or delivered via inter-agency mail, to each party and public agency who appeared and participated in the public hearing concerning the matter, and who is listed below:

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rsn

**ATTESTED BY:**

**JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA**
**Director, Office of Zoning**