WASHINGTON
CONVENTION CENTER

April 7, 2004

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 17145

Dear Ms. Kress:

The Washington Convention Center Authority (WCCA) recently presented to the WCCA Advisory Committee plans for the demolition and interim parking lot regarding the former convention center site.

The Advisory Committee was established as a part of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994 and consists of 19 appointed members of the community. They are ANC Commissioners, designees representing Councilmembers, mayoral appointees and representatives from organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association, Metropolitan Washington Council, and the AFL-CIO. The Advisory Committee has been charged with the responsibility to advise and make recommendations to the Washington Convention Center Authority's Board of Directors and staff on all phases of building the new convention center. The Advisory Committee has been holding monthly public meetings since November 1995.

It is our understanding that the proposed interim use of the former convention center site is intended to provide a badly needed supply of short-term parking in this area of downtown DC. With the opening of the new Washington Convention Center, MCI Center, numerous new restaurants, the City Museum, as well as construction of commercial and residential projects in the vicinity, this downtown as we know it, is quickly changing. The Advisory Committee feels that providing short term parking in this area will eliminate some of the traffic and parking pressures expanding into the residential neighborhoods within the immediate area. This is especially true in consideration of parking requirements created by events at the MCI Center and during public events at the new Washington Convention Center.

BZA
Case No. 17145
Exhibit No. 27

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17145
EXHIBIT NO. 27

Although there is support of the idea of providing interim parking on the old convention center site, we do not agree with the proposed concept of hosting large public or special events. This is primarily due to the existing traffic and parking pressures on the neighborhoods and any resulting pressures created by this new venue would compound the existing problems. The Advisory Committee would possibly support special events that require use of 50% or less of the site. This would allow for the remaining space to be utilized for on site parking for those attending the special event.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our input to the exciting downtown changes. The Advisory Committee supports the need to provide and encourage interim short-term parking at the former convention center site and request that the BZA approve the Use Variance Application.

If you have any questions you may contact me at 202/488-3883 or 703/522-0800.

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carmencita R. Kinsey /RR
Chair

Copies to: WCCA Board of Directors
WCCA Advisory Committee
Thomas M Mobley, Jr., General Manager, WCCA
Allen Lew, Acting Deputy General Manager, & Managing Director/Development
Claude Bailey, General Counsel, WCCA
Anthony Robinson, Public Affairs Director, WCCA
Theresa DuBois, Community Relations Manager, WCCA

Info Copies: The Honorable Harold Brazil, Councilman At-Large
The Honorable Jack Evans, Councilman – Ward 2
Susan Linsky, Special Assistant to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development