To Board of Zoning Adjustment;
regarding #17145

I object to the Application for Variance by the Government of the District of Columbia (Washington Convention Center Athority) regarding 900 9th St. N.W. They wish to allow a temporary parking lot presumably in replacement of parking ~~space~~ that was at the site of the New Convention Center. As a member of Mayday DC, a group that advocates for many homeless and has membership of many D.C. homeless, I wish to point out that the New Convention Center building site was originally used for both parking and shelter for homeless women. In D.C. we currently have a crisis regarding downtown shelter space; one that doesn't just include hundreds of homeless men, many disabled and many veterans - it includes more than 65 women! Women are particularly vulnerable to rape and other hazards when forced to reside in the streets and parks of our city. The crisis for shelter was accelerated by the closure of the Gales School Shelter to make way for the needs of a non-governmental agency for children. During that closure, charitable organizations offered to use the old convention center as shelter for those who so desperately need it, the city refused as they intended to use it for a parking lot. But lives, D.C. citizens lives, are more important than cars. The city has offered no alternative to the old convention center for shelter. Until it offers such, the city has a responsibility to use the building now abandoned, as Shelter!! (See the McKinney act). Mayday DC, and I personally ask that that you refuse the zoning variance so that the building can be used for the greater good of saving lives! And that until the city of DC includes plans for shelter and housing those homeless who were initially displaced when both Convention Centers New and Old in thier plans for this property, we ask that you refuse all requests for variances on this property site! Shelter for women and children is more important than Parking for Cars!

Jamie Loughner
Jamie Loughner
of Mayday

BZA
Case No. 17145
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 33