17147

Raylynn Oliver
5600 Broad Branch Road NW
Washington DC 20015

March 26, 2004

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW Suite 220
Washington DC 20001

Dear Madam and Sirs:

The Broad Branch Market was a wonderful institution in the Chevy Chase neighborhood for many years. It was a quiet, daytime business that provided convenience without a significant increase in noise, traffic, or parking congestion in the neighborhood. I was sad to see it close at the end of 2002. Unfortunately, as the proposal put forward by Lewis Bloom for commercial development of the property shows, that wonderful institution is gone and not to return.

The proposed building and uses will represent a substantial increase in noise, traffic and parking congestion over the level imposed by the old Broad Branch Market. Unlike the current building, the much bigger building will be an aberration, out of proportion with the historic homes next to it. I specifically ask that no variance be granted for any commercial activity that would take place after 7 pm or on Sundays through the autumn, winter and spring. There is no precedence for evening commercial activity in this residential area and I would not want to see this begin now.

If there were actual community support for the market, it would not have gone out of business. The market existed as long as it did because the owners must have been receiving below-market rent. The Shin's have thus been subsidizing our neighborhood's sentimental attachment to a past that is gone even while we weren't sufficiently supporting them with our business.

We need to repay Mr. and Mrs. Shin by removing the threat of historical designation so they may sell their property for residential development.

Sincerely,

Raylynn Oliver

BZA
Case No. 17147
Exhibit No. 35

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17147
EXHIBIT NO. 35