Steven Cady
2509 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
scady@wc.com
(202) 434-5321

September 8, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Room 210
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Statement in Support of the Application of Richard and Christina Donnell
Application No. 17204 — 2512 I Street N.W. (Square 17, Lot 35)

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I own the townhouse across the street from Richard and Christina Donnell. I understand that the Donnells are seeking certain variances to, among other things, construct a third floor to their townhouse and add an addition to the rear of their townhouse. I wholeheartedly support their application for these variances — and I urge you and the Board to approve the Donnells' application.

For several years, I have watched the townhouse at 2512 I Street rot. The townhouse was occupied until recently by transient George Washington University students, who, as you are well aware, are prone to treat Foggy Bottom like the Dukes of Hazzard treat the General Lee. The Donnells' townhouse was a rundown rental unit until they recently purchased the place. I am thankful that they did.

Foggy Bottom can remain a unique and vibrant residential neighborhood only if it attracts families with a long-term interest in living in the neighborhood. Families pay taxes. Families provide stability. Families are good for Foggy Bottom and good for the District of Columbia.

In order to welcome long-term residents to Foggy Bottom, the Board of Zoning Adjustment must allow reasonable improvements and additions. Fostering a unique and residential neighborhood — indeed, Foggy Bottom's historic roots — certainly is the intent and purpose of the zoning regulations. To deny the Donnells'

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application for a variance would be to damn the very intent of the zoning regulations.

I support the Donnells' application because I believe that prohibiting reasonable improvements and additions discourages families and long-term residents from moving to the neighborhood. This causes a substantial detriment to the public good. The Donnells' application is important because if long-term residents are discouraged, rental units and transient residents will result. And the cycle will continue. Rental units breed more rental units, as life-long residents sell their Foggy Bottom townhouses in an effort to flee the General Lee-fication of Foggy Bottom.

Don't drive Foggy Bottom into a ditch. I urge you and the Board to encourage the Donnells and their investment in Foggy Bottom and their townhouse. They seek to return 2512 I Street to its historic roots — a single family home. The Donnells' proposal is good for Foggy Bottom; it is good for their neighbors; and it is good for the city.

If someone were in a position to be adversely affected by the Donnells' proposal, I suppose I would be that person (given my location directly across the street). But, quite to the contrary, I absolutely support the Donnells' application. Their plans would substantially improve the appeal of their townhouse and the residential nature of Foggy Bottom.

I support Application No. 17204.

Sincerely,

Steven Cady