MITCHELL FRONT
2414 I St., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037
(202) 298-7901

September 8, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Room 210
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application No. 17204, 2512 I Street NW, Square 17, Lot 35
Application of Richard and Christina Donnell

Mr. Griffis:

My name is Mitchell Front. I have been a Foggy Bottom resident since 1992. I have lived at my present address at 2414 I St., NW, since May of 1999. Over the course of the 12 years that I have lived in Foggy Bottom, I have seen many changes take place in the neighborhood. Many of the changes have benefited the neighborhood, some changes have not.

My neighbors, the Donnells, have recently applied for a zoning variance with the BZA. Specifically, they wish to build a 3-story addition to their existing house. I am writing in support of their request.

I am familiar with the Donnells' plans, and I believe that their plans represent a nice addition to their house, and to the neighborhood.

I love the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. My biggest complaint about the neighborhood though, is absentee homeowners who rent to the transient student population. I have nothing against the students, but I find that on the whole, the don't make great neighbors.

BZA
Case No. 17204
Exhibit No. 34

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17204
EXHIBIT NO. 34

I would love to see all of the houses in my neighborhood occupied by their owners. Owner occupied houses tend to be better cared for, and they also contribute to a stronger, more stable community.

To that end, I feel that homeowners should be able to make their houses as livable as possible. I had the opportunity to see the Donnells' house before they bought it. It was divided into two apartments, was run down, and was not very attractive. The previous owner, who only lived around the block, rented it to students, and kept maintenance to a minimum.

Now that the Donnells live in that house, it already looks nicer from the outside. In this sense, our neighborhood has already benefited from their presence on the street.

The Donnells simply wish to return the house to a single-family residence. I applaud their efforts, and wish them success.

The bureaucracy in our city often leads homeowners to not even try to go forward with such plans. I'd like to think that someday in the future, my wife and I may be in a position to make some modest renovations to our house. Your approval of the Donnells' request would give us some hope and reassurance that we could undertake a similar project.

I ask that you approve their request for a zoning variance. I think that it would result in a benefit to our neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely -



Mitch Front