

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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Appeal of Patrick J. Carome :

of Building Permit :  
No. B460927 :

BZA Appeal No. 17285

4825 Dexter Terrace, NW :  
Frank & Dina Economides, Owners :

**AFFADAVIT OF ROBERT PINCIOTTI, P.E.**

I, Robert Dean Pinciotti do depose and state to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 years and competent to testify to the matters herein.
2. I am a licensed Professional Engineer and am currently licensed in PA, MD, VA, SC, and the District of Columbia. My area of practice is geotechnical engineering. I have experience with design and / or construction of building foundations, basement walls, earth retaining walls, bridges, highways, water tanks, dams, dikes, embankments and other earth structures. I am currently employed by the URS Corporation, Gaithersburg, Maryland, as a Principal Geotechnical Engineer.
3. I have been asked to comment on the DCRA's May 27, 2005, submission in BZA Appeal No. 17825.
4. In regards to the DCRA's contention that the leveling pad is not a footing for the Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) structure at issue:
  - a. The design documents prepared by Ryan and Associates (Ryan) provide for variable leveling pad thickness depending upon the condition of the underlying bearing soils. Based on my assessment of the underlying soils, the proper leveling course as described by Ryan should consist of an 18 inch thick layer of stone containing geogrid reinforcement. This design clearly acts as a footing for the Mesa block veneer by accepting and spreading the weight of the blocks.
  - b. Based on my assessment, the as-constructed leveling pad consists of six to seven inches of stone. Considering Ryan's design documents and the condition of the bearing soils, this leveling course is inadequate. Nevertheless, the leveling course supports the Mesa block veneer and is integral to its construction. Therefore, the leveling course should be considered the Mesa block footing.
5. In regards to the qualifications of Mr. Adbullahi Barrow as an expert witness for the DCRA:
  - a. The District of Columbia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Promissory webpage indicates that Adbullahi Barrow is not a Professional Engineer, but an Engineer in Training.
  - b. Mr. Barrow indicates that he is a structural engineer. While the evaluation and structural design of concrete retaining walls are in the normal practice of a structural engineer, the evaluation and design of earth structures are not in the normal practice of a structural

**BZA**

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engineer, but in the normal practice of a geotechnical engineer. The structure at issue is an earth structure.

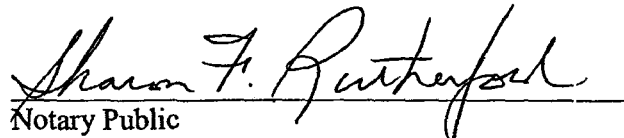
- c. Numerous statements in Mr. Barrow's affidavit, such as referring to the leveling pad as loose gravel, clearly indicates that evaluation and design of earth structures is not in his normal practice area.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 30 day of June, 2005.

  
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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, this 30 day of June, 2005

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 07/01/2006