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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)
441 - 4th Street, NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

November 18, 2005

Re: BZA Application No. 17304
Benning Road Metrorail Station Site

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

I Raymond J. Smith, fully endorse the efforts of Community First at Benning Metro, community representatives and community-based organizations to prevent the location, construction and use of a five-story office building at the Benning Road Metrorail Station. As a member of a faith based organization in the city, my concern in this matter is that expressed by Community First at Benning Metro.

I ask that you dismiss the "request for exceptions" seeking suspension of governing parking space and building design requirements submitted by the Applicant, Washington Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and its co-developers including the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and Jenco.

In concert with other community representatives and community-based organizations, I deplore the lack of consultation with our communities and the general disregard with which we have been excluded from timely participation in a meaningful project selection and planning process.

Your dismissal of the Application and denial of the request for exceptions will greatly encourage the attempts of the communities served by Benning Metro to identify and promote development projects that are community-friendly and enhance the communities' general well-being. The proposed project does not meet these most fundamental criteria.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Smith
602 Delafield Place, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20011

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17304
EXHIBIT NO. 83

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