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March 30, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 N. 4th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Application of Dorchester Associates (BZA Application No. 17309)

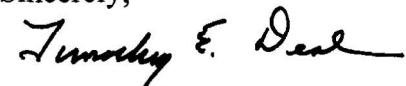
Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing to express our strong opposition to the referenced application by developer Morton Bender to build 13 houses on the former Murphy property at 2762 Chain Bridge Road, which is directly across from Battery Kemble Park. We have seen house after house along MacArthur Blvd and throughout the Palisades converted from homes that truly reflect the character and spirit of the area into unsightly MacMansions more appropriate for Potomac than DC. Mr. Bender's request for a special exception to DC zoning laws to accommodate 13 more houses is really the last straw.

As you know, the Palisades Citizens Association (PCA) voted in April 2005 to oppose this project. Since then, not much has changed. The PCA's review of Mr. Bender's revised proposal indicates that it would not be in conformity with DC law, especially the Chain Bridge Road/University Terrace Tree and Slope Overlay. This overlay was designed specifically to protect trees. Cramming 13 more ugly MacMansions, which will no doubt dwarf existing residences, into three and a half acres will not only create a hideous eyesore, but also likely damage healthy trees and violate the overlay. We also understand that there could be other severe problems, among them: (a) storm water running off into the properties of adjacent neighbors; (b) the likely adverse impact on Battery Kemble Park; and (c) safety concerns on Chain Bridge Road.

We believe the BZA should give serious consideration to these matters and reject the application by Mr. Bender. We see no good reason to bend existing rules for the benefit of a developer whose project, when implemented, will lead to the further degradation of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Timothy E. Deal

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17309
EXHIBIT NO. 99

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