

Government of the District of Columbia
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT



May 10, 2006

Richard England, President
The Lois and Richard England
Family Foundation, Inc.
2832 Chain Bridge Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016-3406

Re: BZA Application No. 17309 (2800 block of Chain Bridge Road,
N.W.) Dorchester Associates LLC

Dear Mr. England:

Thank you for your letter (attached) dated May 5, 2006, and received by the Office of Zoning ("OZ") on May 9, 2006. Let me begin by offering my congratulations and appreciation for your long distinguished business and philanthropic involvement in the District of Columbia.

Your letter describes your experience while attending a Board of Zoning Adjustment ("Board") hearing dealing with the above-cited matter on April 11th of this year. Let me assure you that the Board takes great care to begin all of its hearing and meeting sessions as close to the advertised starting time as possible. There are times, however, where due to extenuating circumstances the Board's schedule is affected to the point where the start time of a case, or the time that a witness is called to testify, may be delayed. The Board tries very hard to give each witness a fair amount of time to present his or her testimony. The Board would rather run a little behind schedule and allow witnesses on both sides of an issue an adequate time period to present their testimony than rush a hearing proceeding to maintain a schedule. As you know, the referenced case had been continued from three other public hearing sessions beginning on April 26, 2005. The record in this case is still open for public participation, as the hearing has been continued to Tuesday, July 18, 2006, in the afternoon session. This case has proved to be unusually difficult requiring inordinate hearing time.

Please be advised that all of the evidence submitted to the Board is public information and is accessible by viewing the relevant files at the OZ during business hours. You mention in your letter that your poor hearing made it difficult to hear certain testimony. All of the Board's hearings and meetings are transcribed by a court reporter.

LETTER TO RICHARD ENGLAND
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Written transcripts of the hearings and meetings are available by visiting the OZ office or going to our informative web-site located at www.dcoz.dc.gov. The OZ takes your concerns very seriously. OZ and the Board continue to strive to make the zoning process as fair, understandable, efficient, accessible and comfortable as possible to all participants. While determining the length of cases as in court is difficult, the Board will continue to work to improve their schedules. Please bear with us and offer any suggestions you have for improvement.

Thank you and please call Richard S. Nero, Jr., Deputy Director of Operations at (202) 727-2806, if you have any questions relevant to the foregoing.

SINCERELY,



JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA
Director



rsn

cc: Robert Sussman
Spence Spencer

JK/RA

The Lois and Richard England Family Foundation, Inc.

RECEIVED
D.C. DEPT. OF ZONING

2006 MAY -2 AM 11:15

President
Richard England
Vice President
Lois England

May 5, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey H. Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Griffis:

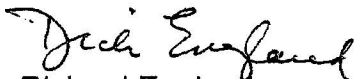
I am the 86-year-old retired chairman of the Hechinger Company, and I have been very active in District philanthropic causes for over 50 years.

On April 11 a group of us, who are neighbors of the property on Chain Bridge Road, which belonged to H. Gabriel Murphy, were asked to appear before the BZA. We were told to be at the hearing at 1 pm. We were kept waiting for about 3 ½ hours before our case was heard. This was a very rude and unnecessary way to treat District residents.

Why can't you follow the golden rule in treating with consideration the people who appear before your Board? I think an apology from you is very much due.

In addition, I think it is appropriate that evidence, which is submitted to your committee, be shown to the audience of interested opponents in the hearing room. I hear poorly, and found it difficult to follow the presentation made by Mr. Bender and his associates.

Respectfully,


Richard England

Cc: Robert Sussman, Spence Spencer