

January 20, 2006

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Case No. 17737

17337 *JKW*

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D.C. BOARD OF ZONING
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Dear Chairman Griffis:

I understand that this case under consideration by the Board involves a proposal by the owner/developer of the properties adjacent to the Hotel Tabard Inn that would include an add-on to the back of the building immediately adjacent to the Tabard's outdoor garden and dining area and would overshadow that unique dining area and impinge on the Hotel's historic ambiance as well.

I write as a person who first dined at the Tabard in the garden in 1984 and have been a regular at the restaurant ever since. In my forty-five years working and living in the District and the surrounding area I have known no similar outdoor dining experience, a point that has been noted in every media review of the Tabard on a consistent year to year basis.

Besides being a customer of long standing at the Tabard, I have an additional interest in the matter. I served as legislative assistant to the late Congressman Widnall when he was the original bipartisan co-sponsor in the House of the National Historic Preservation Act in the 1960s, and served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at HUD in the 1970s responsible for HUD's historic preservation reviews of development projects assisted by that Department. For the past twenty-seven years I have worked with cities, non-profits and developers to finance real estate developments many in historic areas, including most recently a boutique hotel, restaurant and brewpub underway in Lynchburg VA, the rescue of the Gold Dome Bank building in Oklahoma City one of the ten most threatened historic structures nationally according to the National Trust, and presently a \$40 million mixed use redevelopment of historic downtown structures in Memphis.

As such, I am offended and concerned whenever development is proposed that would denigrate the historic aspects - and with it the economic value - of a historic preserve such as the 1700 block of N Street NW and its linchpin historic structure, the longest continuously operating hostelry in the City, the Tabard Inn. When the proposed action is not at all necessary for the financial success of the project involved, which is the case here in my professional opinion, it clearly deserves rejection.

Sincerely,



Warren H. Butler, Partner
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BZA
Case No. 17337
Exhibit No. 47

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 47