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July 12, 2005

Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chairman
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 - South
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Case No. 17349 Application for Special Exception (Applicant: Michael Taylor)

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are writing to strenuously oppose Michael Taylor's application for a special exception to the zoning regulations to allow a rear addition to an existing single-family detached dwelling at 6919 6th Street N.W.

The property at 6919 6th Street NW lies within the Takoma Park Historic District, as designated by the District of Columbia Office of Planning. The owner's application has not yet been accepted by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), because of their objections to what he plans to do to the house. If the applicant were to be granted a special exception by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, it would be making a mockery of the zoning laws and permitting process, by allowing people to get approval after they have broken the laws and regulations that were created to avoid precisely this situation.

We have read the report sent to the BZA by the Office of Planning (OP), and we would urge you and your fellow commissioners to pay close attention to the entire report. Although OP did not submit a final recommendation due to huge gaps in the paltry information provided them by Mr. Taylor, We suggest the following recommendation, based on their report.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Inasmuch as HPRB revoked its approval of the proposed addition due to their discovery that Mr. Taylor's original application was fraudulent, and Mr. Taylor has never submitted the materials HPRB requested;
- Inasmuch as Mr. Taylor did not combine the two lots on this property prior to construction;
- Inasmuch as the construction Mr. Taylor has already started exceeds the 40 percent occupancy allowed by District law;
- Inasmuch as Mr. Taylor has never submitted the correct percentage of lot occupancy as requested by OP, and in fact submitted three (3) different percentages;
- Inasmuch as the Site Plan Mr. Taylor submitted is patently false regarding rear lot elevation, as observed by OP staff on a site visit;
- Inasmuch as HPRB requested that the addition be redesigned to conform with the historic district standards; and

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- Inasmuch as Mr. Taylor's request for a special exception is a request for these transgressions to be approved by the government of the District of Columbia;
- The Office of Planning does hereby **recommend that the Board of Zoning Adjustment deny this request** in an effort to require Mr. Taylor (and others who would similarly attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of District officials) follow the procedures set out to preserve and protect the historic neighborhoods in the District of Columbia.

At least, that is what we would suggest the Office of Planning recommend to you as you consider this application.

This case has dragged on for far too long. We see no reason to believe that any of the requested documentation will ever be received by HPRB, OP, or any other office, and it is unfair to ask the neighbors on the affected block to continue to live with uncertainty. Mr. Taylor's clear disregard of the regulations regarding zoning and construction must be stopped. We respectfully request not only that you deny his request, but that you require him to remove all construction he has started until he complies with the proper procedures. Perhaps through the expense of this he will finally learn that no one is above compliance with the laws of the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Scott-Melnyk

Les' A. Melnyk