The Downtown Cluster of Congregations

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Oct. 17, 2005

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2005 OCT 17 PM 3:00

Chairman Geoff Griffis & Members
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

re: Case #17370 - 555 and 599 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Dear Chairman Griffis & Members,

I wish to express my strong support for the proposed adjustment of parking spaces between the 155 suite hotel facing 6th Street and the 246 Unit apartment building facing Massachusetts Avenue.

I am pleased by the common sense approach that is being proposed as I believe it will ease demand for street parking, and hence ease the difficulties facing residents of the area for that precious commodity. The hotel - as it does not have a destination retail component such as a marquee restaurant, is ideally suited to business travelers and visitors who are utilizing public transport or taxis. Clearly it functions to serve those coming to the downtown area for business and tourist stays that are easily accessible by walking, metro, or taxi. The parking study submitted by the applicant confirms the significant under use, and vacancy of the existing parking spaces by hotel guests.

Therefore, reallocating the spaces to adjacent residents, while making possible an additional 13 valet assisted parking spaces, is really a "win-win" situation. It will help maximize the use of the parking space, and hopefully also ease the demand for on-street parking.

Parking is a critical issue for all users of downtown. The Downtown Cluster of Congregations has been working with the city government for some time to help maximize joint use of available parking spaces, encourage public transit, and ease congestion and parking demands. The proposed action is one of these that helps the parking situation in downtown.

Hence, I would urge your support of the proposed application. Thank you for your on-going efforts to aid in the enhancement and development of quality neighborhoods in the downtown area.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17370
EXHIBIT NO. 35

Respectfully,

Terrance Lynch
Executive Director

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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