

01-02R

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL S. SHOR BEFORE THE
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS ROUNDTABLE ON TOWERS**

My name is Michael Shor. I live in Tenleytown and represent myself and my partner.

I'd like to call your attention to the underlying question here, a question that seems to be largely ignored in the other presentations. The question is the preservation of neighborhoods, property values, and, ultimately, the character of the District versus the erection of unnecessary and redundant new towers erected to make money.

Additional towers are unnecessary because common antennae can be placed on existing towers or buildings as they are in New York.

Additional towers are redundant because the city is amply covered by TV, cell phone and radio antennae both within and outside the District and by cables. And Mr. Donohue's presentation for AT&T confirms this.

Any additional towers are needed to make additional money, not to fill a need. The erectors of additional towers simply don't want to pay the cost of sharing existing tower or building antennae sites.

I suggest that the Commission ban new towers, pushing communications companies to use common antennae sites. Simple height restrictions for all structures might accomplish this while avoiding the strictures of the telecommunications act.

The need for this restriction can be seen in my neighborhood where 30 wires are visible. These are in addition to 13 in the back yard and 3 cables in the ground. It can also be seen at Van Ness and 42 Street, where 17 wires plus a host of guy wires spoil the vista. This spider web looks like a picture of telephone lines in the 1890's. It is an example of what unrestricted free enterprise will produce. And towers degrade the visual environment even more. Photographs of these messes are attached.

If the Commission does not bar additional towers the entrepreneurs who want to erect them will not hesitate to serve their own economic ends, making our nation's capitol look like an industrial area. The attached picture of four of the eight towers in Tenleytown shows what many sites in the District could look like.

In summary, I'd like to urge that the Commission bar additional towers, forcing the common use of the existing towers, buildings, or cables that thoroughly cover the District. I see no reason why the Commission should favor a redundant commercial enterprise at the expense of my quality of life, my investment, my neighbors, and, ultimately, the future character of the District.

ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia

Case 01-02R

Exhibit 34

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.01-02
EXHIBIT NO.34





