Testimony for Zoning Commission Case No. 01-13A
Modification of PUD, IMF Headquarters 2 – Square 119
January 6, 2005

I am Sara Maddux, resident at 522 21st Street N.W., appearing on behalf of the West End Citizens Association in the continuing case of the International Monetary Fund and its impact upon our neighborhood. The Board of Directors of the West End Citizens Association authorized this specific participation for this hearing at the Board Meeting in December 2004.

Welcome to Fortress Foggy Bottom! Previously, when we discussed the issues concerning the impact of the IMF on the Foggy Bottom residents and the neighborhood, it was almost speculative. Now, we have real examples of the negative impact and the need to have amenities for the directly affected neighborhood to offset the continuing effects of the presence of the IMF. The changes being presented to have amenities north and west of our directly affected neighborhood do not meet the intentions of this process. The proposed items are frankly closer to the Dupont Circle neighborhood which is **never** affected by meetings and activities at the IMF.

In the last couple of years, when the IMF and World Bank have had annual meetings and other interim meetings, our residential neighborhood has been closed off by the Metropolitan police extending as far as 23rd Street on the West and down to E Street on the south. There is resident difficulty in entering the neighborhood or having a normal life, especially on the weekends. In planning meetings with the IMF before this building was started, we noted the issues of terrorism threats and the impact of having an 'attractive nuisance' in the middle of our neighborhood and so close to our government buildings. The IMF told us that its security experts from Chicago said that the planter boxes and reinforced walls would take care of that but there was no consideration for potential dangers to the residents and the residential buildings in our neighborhood.

This all came home to roost this past summer when it became public that indeed terrorists had surveilled the IMF buildings for what could be a bombing attack. Immediately, the streets and sidewalks in the neighborhood were ringed with jersey barriers and the police established 24-hour-a-day security stations at the street intersections. This was for the benefit of the IMF and the police were not allowed to do any police work on issues in the neighborhood. During the times of the IMF/World Bank meetings, jersey barriers were placed so that the streets were totally closed. Only after the November 2004 US elections was this level of protection for the IMF removed. Our neighborhood **is** directly impacted by the IMF.

One of the intended amenities to the neighborhood was the use of public space at the IMF for voting purposes for our precinct. Virtually without notice, the IMF closed down that opportunity and thus the voting place had to be shifted to another, less convenient area of the neighborhood.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 01-13A
18

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.01-13A
EXHIBIT NO.18

We hereby request meetings with the officials of the IMF as provided under the Zoning Order. We are greatly disappointed in the attempt to draw away from the directly affected neighborhood the previously agreed to amenities.

We want the following items:

- Trees. The District of Columbia is unable to keep up with the replacement of trees which have died or been damaged and won't survive.

- Parks. Several parks in the neighborhood are suffering greatly from neglect. Two particularly neglected are the park on E Street in front of the Department of the Interior and the park in the triangle of 21st Street/Virginia Avenue/E Street. We need to survey the others in the neighborhood.

- Benches. There is virtually no place for people to have a seat while walking through the neighborhood. This is particularly obvious for tourists with children who are walking back from the Mall area to reach Metro stations. We need benches with divided seating strategically placed in the neighborhood as is done in other world capital cities.

- Solutions for the homeless in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, even in an improving economy, our neighborhood now again has a growing population of homeless individuals. An entity which addresses this problem in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in a most logical and organized manner is the D.C. Central Kitchen. It provides healthful meals as well as a training program which enables individuals to leave living on the streets. There should be a financial contribution made to D.C. Central Kitchen over and above anything the IMF asserts is done through their employees' annual giving program. The Commission heard testimony by this organization in its review of the Square 51 PUD.

- Assistance to the residents during meetings at the IMF. We strongly pointed out previously that large meetings such as held by the IMF for its international clientele should be held outside of our dense urban area. There are sufficient nearby places in the US which have the appropriate space and security standards. If the IMF continues to have such meetings a mere two blocks away which require closure of the neighborhood and restricted access, they must provide a system and assistance to the residents so normal life can go on. The system could include escort service and identification credentials for residents, and IMF-provided security for residential buildings.

We ask your serious consideration of these issues and that you bring balance back into this process. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I would be glad to answer questions you may have.