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OFFICE OF ZONING

April 9, 2002

Ms. Carol J. Mitten
Chairperson
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W, Rm. 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

This letter has been written to request a postponement for an upcoming hearing requesting consolidated review and approval of a Planned Unit Development ("PUD") from the Office of the Chief Technology Officer for the District of Columbia. The case number is 01-36C which is scheduled to be held on the 18th of April at 6:30pm., Office of Zoning Hearing Room. The project will result in a state-of-the-art Unified Communications Center ("UCC"). The specific proposed site is for the St. Elizabeth's ("St. Es") Northern most part of the East Campus of St. Es hospital. The property is situated along the east side of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue near Pomroy Road, S.E. and Suitland Parkway passes near the property to the Northeast. There are approximately 11.80 acres.

Ward 8 Citizens oppose, for 2 reasons, any construction on that site of St. Es Campus. The 1st reason is that we want an independent environmental study completed for that site by a company that Ward 8 resident's choose. And 2nd, we are concerned as to what the plans are for the mentally ill people now at St. E. What will happen to them?
First, we oppose the reopening of the toxic ash that was dumped on St. E grounds during the late 70's and early 80's by the employees of the Benning Road incinerator facility. After the dumping of this toxic waste some community members started to complain of breathing problems. We were told that this ash was non-toxic. We were told it was not harmful. The neighbors continued to complain and people started getting sick. The community felt that the following people got sick and died due to (according to their family members) problems associated with the breathing of this toxic ash that was allowed to become airborne:

Mr. Charlie
Mr. Proctor
Mrs. Jackson
Mrs. Coleman

Others continued to get sick and die all within a few blocks of this toxic Ash.

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EXHIBIT NO. 22

Second, St E initially was set-aside for the mentally ill. The city at present is not serving the needs of this population, which is many times homeless and clinically ill. This is a growing population and although this is not the proper setting to address their specific needs, certainly they must be considered when developing the very grounds that they now reside on. A great portion of the land has already been earmarked for other projects that do not have the mentally ill's well being as a priority.

When WMATA came through the area to build the subway, they agreed not to disturb or release this air borne Ash again.

UCC will disturb this Ash when they build their Parking Lot. We believe this will create a health hazard if this fly ash is air borne again. Although we were told it is harmless, our past experience tells us otherwise.

There are other areas of St. E that may be utilized. Are those areas not an option, even at the possible health risk of people in our community? We do not oppose the developing of the site, but based on past experiences that resulted in health issues for some, and the absence of honest information being given to the resident's, we are not comfortable leaving our health issues in the hands of others.

We unanimously voted at a public meeting held April 8, 2002, not to approve this zoning request until further studies have been conducted concerning the environmental condition of this site and the plans for the mentally ill.

Myself, Along with Chairperson (8C) Mary Cuthbert and Chairperson (8B) Jacque Patterson, would like an opportunity to speak concerning this issue for Ward 8. Also, Commissioner's in attendance may speak. Specifically, Commissioner Alfonso Freeman will be speaking. I estimate that our total time, as a whole, should not be more than I hour. Once those 2 areas of concern are properly satisfied, we will review this proposal again and determine our decision.

Thank you in advance for considering our concerns. If you have further questions I may be reached at (202) 693-1116.

Sincerely,

W. Dianne Glover

W. Dianne Glover
Chairperson – Ward 8 ANC 8A