Case No. 01-36C (Consolidated PUD and Map Amendment @ Square S5868, Lot 1 – Unified Communications Center)

Testimony of Dr. Art Bridges:
April 18, 2002

Good evening members of the Commission. My name is Dr. Art Bridges and I am the Principal of Ballou Senior High School, which is located in the Ward 8 neighborhood of the proposed location for the UCC.

I rearranged my schedule so that I could be here to offer testimony in full support of the UCC project. I agree that this project will not only benefit public safety and customer service, but also provide much needed revitalization and economic benefit to the citizens of Ward 8. My interest in this project however, stems from my vested interest in our youth. I believe there will be enormous potential to form mentoring partnerships with the development of this technologically advanced facility. As some of you may know, Ballou is an Information Technology Center. Two of our seniors, Trayon White and Roland Williams, recently completed a four-week internship in the UCC project office assisting with the design review activities. In partnership with the development of the UCC, there will be additional opportunities for our students to continue with the program in the summer. With such a strong and proactive community outreach being extended to our school in the developmental stages of the project, I have tangible reasons to be encouraged that this project will become a vital part of the community.

I firmly believe that the UCC will serve as a much needed catalyst to help develop the underutilized land on St. Elizabeth's East Campus. It should easily bring contracting and apprenticeship opportunities to local, small and disadvantaged businesses as well as provide career opportunities to the residents of the District of Columbia.

It is for these reasons, that I am in such favor of this project and request that the commission make every effort to ensure that the proposed amendment is approved.

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ZONING COMMISSION
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EXHIBIT NO.30