

EDWARD M. ROGERS
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Washington D.C. 20007

August 22, 2002

DELIVERED VIA MESSENGER

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 220
Washington D.C. 20001

2002 AUG 23 PM 1:32

Re: Case No. 02-06/Cleveland Park Overlay

Dear Commissioners:

I have been a homeowner in the Cleveland Park area since 1997. I selected Cleveland Park as the place to raise my children for a variety of reasons, including the many public amenities such as parks, the relatively easy commute to work and the many commercial establishments located within easy walking distance of my home. The vitality and pedestrian-friendly atmosphere of the Cleveland Park area make it a very attractive place to call home.

I wish to comment on the current "restaurant overlay" issue before the Zoning Commission. A number of self-appointed community activists have been quite vocal in their opposition to the opening of any new restaurants, even in locations where restaurants previously operated. Such individuals do not speak for me, my family or for many of our Cleveland Park neighbors.

I believe it is the restaurants, particularly those with outside seating areas, that are primarily responsible for establishing an energy and cosmopolitan ambiance that distinguishes urban neighborhoods from suburban strip centers. In addition to the food and entertainment they offer, restaurants also ensure the economically viability of our commercial sectors. With most parts of the District clamoring for more restaurants, it is ironic that some in Cleveland Park are trying to lessen the number of our existing neighborhood eateries. It makes little sense – either from an economic or quality of life perspective. If it is true that the 25% limit has been exceeded during past years, such fact has certainly not harmed our neighborhood.

One particularly troubling aspect of the current controversy is the suggestion that a property owner should lose its right to lease space to a restaurant if it closes temporarily to renovate or upgrade its building. Such proposal would discourage property owners from renovating and upgrading their properties, for fear of losing their right to lease to a restaurant operator. Anything that creates a disincentive to maintain and improve commercial properties cannot possibly be in the neighborhood's best interest.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

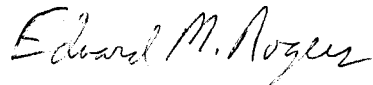
Case 02-06 ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Exhibit 26 CASE NO.02-06
EXHIBIT NO.26

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia
August 22, 2002
Page 2

As you consider the proposals before you, please note that the activists who are promoting their anti-restaurant agenda do not speak for me or my family on this issue. Based on extensive discussions with my neighbors, I also do not believe they speak for the majority of our Cleveland Park residents.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward M. Rogers".

Edward M. Rogers