

Mary Jo Kelly
3218 Cleveland Ave, NW
Washington D.C. 20008

August 22, 2002

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

7/14/02
CC-02-06

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have been a resident of Washington D.C. since 1997 and a resident of the Cleveland Park neighborhood since 1999. I have chosen to continue to be a resident of Washington D.C., rather than move to the suburbs for many reasons, including the convenience of a relatively easy commute to work and an ability to walk to local commercial establishments.

I understand that, over the past several years, there has been a significant amount of discussion among residents of the Cleveland Park area regarding the "restaurant overlay" that was enacted in the late 1980s, but which was not properly enforced by District authorities. Specifically, there is a very vocal group of residents opposed to the opening any new restaurants until the linear footage of restaurants within the overlay area is reduced below 25%. My intent in sending this letter is to notify you that those vocal residents do not speak for me.

Cleveland Park is not a residential development in the suburbs, where everyone expects to get in their car to buy a quart of milk or dinner. It is an urban setting in the middle of Washington D.C. One of the major reasons I moved to the Cleveland Park neighborhood was for the diversity of goods and services that can be purchased in its commercial district, including the great variety of restaurants that exist. It seems to me that the more variety (in price, type of food, etc.) of restaurants that exist, the more people from the neighborhood, and elsewhere, will patronize those restaurants, and "while they are there" patronize the retail establishments, which makes the whole commercial district more economically viable, and the neighborhood an even better place to live. I cannot imagine why we would want to limit the restaurants to 25% of the linear footage. Frankly, my friends who live in Chevy Chase, DC have on more than one occasion suggested that if the residents of Cleveland Park don't enjoy having a large, diverse group of restaurants in their neighborhood, that they should send the restaurant owners further up Connecticut Ave., where they would be welcomed with much enthusiasm.

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I am particularly distressed at the suggestion that restaurants should be forced to close or that restaurants may not be replaced by property owners until the 25% limit (which I understand is slightly exceeded right now) is reached. The fact that the 25% limit has been exceeded has not in any way hurt the neighborhood; in fact, I believe it has enhanced its desirability as a place to live. The members of ANC3C and the officers of the Cleveland Park Citizen's Association do not speak for me on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


Mary Jo Kelly