

MARY CAROLYN BROWN

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August 23, 2002

D. C. Zoning Commission
441 - 4th Street, N. W.
Room 220 South
Washington, D. C. 20001

02-06 Case

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-06
Exhibit 33

Dear Commission Members:

As a six-year resident of Cleveland Park, I have followed with interest the debate in our community concerning the limitation on restaurants along Connecticut Avenue between Macomb and Porter Streets. There is a small but vocal group of individuals on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Cleveland Park Citizens Association who claim to speak for the community on the issue of whether restaurants should be eliminated or otherwise curtailed until the 25% zoning limitation is reached. This small group does not speak for me, and from comments I have heard from others in my community, these people do not speak for a majority of my neighbors.

First, there is absolutely no reason whatsoever to have such an unduly burdensome restriction on desirable retail uses such as restaurants in my community. If you and a vocal minority must continue to impose such a burden on me and my neighborhood, I urge you not to penalize honest businesses that have been unwittingly caught up in this controversy. It is my understanding that the 25% limitation has been exceeded merely through lack of enforcement of the Zoning Regulations by the District, or questions of interpretation, and not through any malfeasance on the part of these restaurateurs. While this is unfortunate, it has not had a negative effect on our commercial area. Those of us who choose to live in the District, do so for the purpose of being close to the many attractions it offers. A vibrant commercial area, with a variety of different restaurants, is one of those attractions. Moreover, the new businesses that move into our community often provide desperately needed repairs and improvements to the historic buildings, adding new life and visual enhancements to the streetscape.

What is it that the vocal few fear? That without the limitation Cleveland Park won't be able to attract a grocery store? We have three already. That we won't have a drugstore, a bank, an optometrist, a drycleaner, a hair salon, a tailor, a shoe repair shop, a lighting store, a vacuum cleaner salesroom, a dance studio, a frame shop, a video store, or a camera shop, just to name a few? All these exist, with or without the 25%

restriction. Or is it just a general fear of an urban neighborhood turning into a hip, urban destination point that one can take pride in?

The vocal minority does not speak for me. While I support the enforcement of all City regulations, I see no need to reduce or eliminate the number of restaurants, or to prevent the replacement of one restaurant with another.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Brown".

Carolyn Brown