

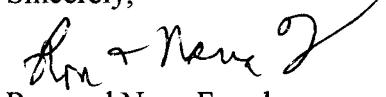
5219 42nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015-1931
November 23, 2002

Ms Carol Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001
Case ZC #02-17

Dear Ms Mitten,

The Stonebridge zoning hearing is underway. As you know, Stonebridge wants to build an 85-foot tall building at the corner of Military and Western—a high-rise that would be eight times as massive as the existing Washington Clinic, and the same height as the Embassy Suites building. Stonebridge has asked your Committee to increase the zoning density for the site, to more than twice the density allowed now as a matter of right. If this project goes forward, it will irreversibly change the character of our neighborhood. Stonebridge has failed to explain *why* changing the zoning at this site is in the public interest. Instead, the developer continues to point out that its October proposal is somewhat smaller than its August proposal. That's all true, but it obscures the more important point: a sizeable development can be built on this site *without* amending the zoning at all. And that won't be the end of it. If this proposal is granted, other developers will up the ante and ask for a more denser complex, sighting the fact that "the Stonebridge proposal was granted so why not this one." My wife and I ask you and your fellow commissioners to assess this proposal in light of those people in the surrounding neighborhoods. Think not of just the tax base, but of the neighborhood you will be destroying in the process of granting the Stonebridge proposal.

Sincerely,



Ron and Neva Farrah

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