

June 18, 2002

Albert Bastida, Secretary
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

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D.C. DEPT. OF ZONING
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Subject: Case 02-19, Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay

Dear Sirs:

We urge the Commission to adopt the Tree and Slope Overlay proposed for the Forest Hills area, and voted on by the ANC on June 17. We need the Overlay to protect the park-like character and lovely tree canopy of our neighborhood.

Current zoning rules leave us open to exploitation by people who are not concerned about the beauty of the neighborhood and who cut trees with no regard for the community. In recent years, we have seen a number of cases where a builder buys a lot, cuts the trees down, demolishes the house and builds a huge house with no greenery.

We have studied the Overlay carefully, and we are willing to live with the tree restrictions in order to preserve the quality of Forest Hills.

The proposed new setback requirements are also desirable. Most of the houses in our block are forty or fifty feet from the sidewalk. When someone builds a house only 15 feet from the sidewalk (as has happened), the whole block loses a sense of order and proportion.

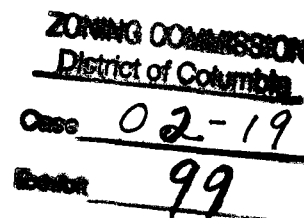
We support the requirement for 30% lot occupancy with impervious surface limited to 50%. With the materials available today, it is not difficult to put in a patio or pool deck, or extend a driveway, with materials that allow rain to permeate. We have a lot of steep slopes in the Overlay area, and we need more controls on runoff and erosion.

I urge the Commission to help us preserve a healthy and green landscape. Please include this letter in the public record for this Case.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie and Jack Rachlin

Marjorie and Jack Rachlin (homeowners)
2919 Brandywine Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.99