

**MEL ELFIN
4515 30TH ST., NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008**

June 18, 2002

The Zoning Commission of D.C.
One Judiciary Square
441 4th St., NW
Suite 220
Washington, DC, 20001

Sirs/Madames:

As a retired magazine editor (Newsweek, U.S. News) and a member of a family that has resided in our beautiful city for almost a century, I am writing in support of the proposed Forest Hills tree and slope overlay (as amended) now under consideration by the commission.

I favor the proposal not simply because it was the verdant quality of our community that helped convince me not to return to New York when promising professional opportunities came up during my career. Even the chance for a major promotion was not a sufficient lure to persuade me to exchange peering out my bedroom window in the morning and seeing trees, bushes and grass for a view of Manhattan's concrete and asphalt jungle. And now that I am retired and spending my days amid the lush greenery of Forest Hills, it has confirmed that I made the right decision by electing to stay put in Washington and in supporting the overlay.

The arguments against the proposal all seem to boil down to the frequent assertion that "I should have the right to do what I want with my property." But based upon a history of the common law and the hundreds of decisions handed down each day by courts and legislatures across the nation, the argument is spectacularly removed from the truth. Moreover, as a sometime student of American history, it reminds me of one of the most appallingly immoral chapters in our national past. In the pre-Civil War era, slaveholders made the same assertion about their property rights in promoting the extension of slavery to new territories in the West.

For these reasons, I ask you to approve the tree and slope overlay for Forest Hills (as amended).

Sincerely,

Mel Elfin

Mel Elfin

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 02-19

Exhibit 110

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.110