

*Charna Jaye Swedarsky
2800 Chesterfield Place NW
Washington, DC. 20008*

June 24, 2002

Honorable Carol J. Mitten
Chairperson
DC Zoning Commission
Suite 210 South
441 Fourth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case No. 02-19
Emergency Map Amendment
Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

As a long time homeowner and resident of the Forest Hills section of the District of Columbia, this is to inform the DC Zoning Commission of my strong opposition to the above referenced proposed tree and slope overlay district, and request that the Commission reject this zoning change.

My family purchased lots, built a home, and has resided in the proposed overlay district of Forest Hills for almost 50 years. Our property was originally purchased as subdivided residential lots on which individual homes were intended to be built to take advantage of the natural park setting. My family chose to build on only one of the lots, but continued to maintain the entire property and pay substantial taxes on the remaining vacant lots as residential. I am in opposition to the proposed overlay as it unduly restricts the rights of existing and future homeowners to build and remodel homes, or sell residential property in the affected areas without justification. By virtue of the numerous and complicated restrictions coupled with a cumbersome waiver/approval process, the proposal effectively prohibits any construction in the overlay areas. As such, it also serves to precipitously depreciate the value of property in Forest Hills without compensation, whether or not a change is planned for such property/residence.

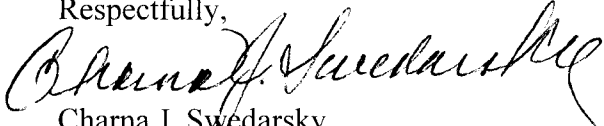
It is undisputed that one of the prime attractions of living in certain sections of Forest Hills is the natural setting. However, residential construction in this area over the years has shown it is possible to build a new residence or expand a current residence, and preserve the character and integrity of the natural environment without imposing the type of restrictions proposed by the overlay.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 116

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.116

For the foregoing reasons, in addition to those expressed by Commissioners Kogan and Maudlin in their Minority Report to the Zoning Commission dated June 17, 2002, it is respectfully requested that the DC Zoning Commission reject the ANC 3F Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District.

Respectfully,



Charna J. Swedarsky
(202) 237-6339

Cc:
Alberto P. Bastida, AICP
Secretary, Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
Suite 210
441 Fourth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001