

Sanford L. Hartman
2810 Brandywine Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

August 29, 2002

Honorable Carol J. Mitten, Chairperson
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case No. 02-19 (Text Amendment – Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District)

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

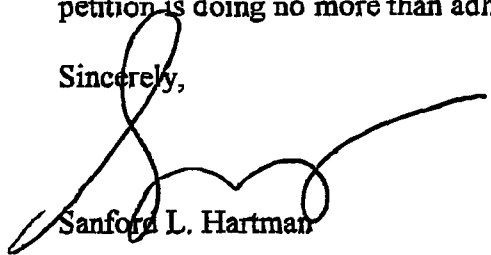
Please adopt the Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District filed by the Forest Hills Citizens Association on April 5, 2002.

As a former member of the zoning board of appeals for a Connecticut community located outside of New York, I understand personally the difficult trade-offs associated with land-use decisions. But, based on my experience in having to make these trade-offs, I believe that the Zoning Commission should adopt the petition without delay.

Over the past few years there has been an explosive growth of new and larger houses in the Forest Hills area. Each new house it seems is bigger than the last. Little or no regard is given as to whether trees are removed; whether yards are shrunk; whether grass disappears; whether neighbors look directly into the windows of the new house next door (or even worse look at the side wall of a new house that doesn't have many side windows); or, in some cases, whether you can see past the roof-line of your neighbor's new house to look at the sky.

Responsible preservation should start with retaining architects to design houses that fit into the landscape. It should end with houses sized sensibly given the lot on which they are constructed and the overall character of the neighborhood. Voting in favor of the petition is doing no more than adhering to this basic and sound principle of land-use.

Sincerely,


Sanford L. Hartman

cc: Alberto P. Bastida, AICP

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 02-19

Exhibit 203

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.203