

August 31, 2002

Alberto P. Bastida
Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning, Suite 210
441 4th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Bastida and Members of the Zoning Commission:

This letter is in reference to Case No. 02-19 (Text Amendment – Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District). We are strongly in support of the overlay as it has been amended and recommend that the Zoning Commission approve it as amended.

The trees are the overwhelmingly important characteristic of the Forest Hills neighborhood. They were preserved by those who built this neighborhood. Most of the larger trees are more than 100 years old and pre-date development of this neighborhood. We see it as our responsibility to preserve this legacy for those who will come to live in this wonderful section of the city.

The process that has taken place in Forest Hills to converge on a proposal that the overwhelming majority can support has been sound. There have been neighborhood meetings, meetings with the Forest Hills Citizens Association, our ANC and meetings with those who do not believe the overlay proposal to be in their interests. There should be no excuse by anyone in the neighborhood that this is being "rushed" through.

In fact, we recall that about 10 years ago the concept of a tree and slope overlay was broached by some in the neighborhood but dropped. However the concept has been on the minds of many in the neighborhood for at least that long.

The proposal before you contains many changes from the original concept. These changes have come about through countless meetings with individuals who told our overlay team about their circumstances. We think one can argue that those who remain in opposition could not be satisfied on any substantive ground other than dropping the overlay. We would like to emphasize that the overlay team and the entire group supportive of the overlay proposal have tried to create the strongest support base possible in order to make the decision the Commission must be the easiest. We think we have succeeded and now the decision is in the hands of the Commission.

Thank you for considering this opinion and thank you and the Commission for your service to the people of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Counter Signed: V. W. Hogg
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 249

Out of town when original
prepared, but reflective of
my views.
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 249