

3101 Chesapeake St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

October 4, 2002

Mr. Alberto Bastida, AICP
Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning (Case No 02 - 19)
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

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

As a resident of Forest Hills, I wish to register my support for the tree and slope overlay. The overlay, as amended, provides much protection that the neighborhood needs. A tree and slope overlay does not address all the concerns of the neighborhood but waiting for citywide tree protections or a revamping of zoning regulations will be too late for many situations arising in the neighborhood.

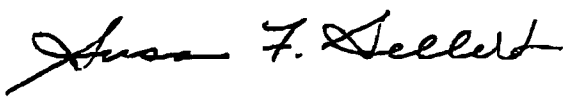
Opponents claim that Forest Hills citizens are deeply divided on the overlay issue. Much of the division seems to have begun when an ANC commissioner opted out of the process. Neighbors do not understand why; the situation has led to a contested ANC race in Forest Hills. The other ANC commissioner opposing the overlay complains about not enough public input and yet came out against having another public meeting on the topic.

At several public meetings I heard Ad Hoc Committee members repeatedly offer to work with and meet with those with concerns and ideas to develop a quality overlay for the community. Since amendments were made, the committee must have been amenable to changes.

While opponents claim to be ready to work on a better plan, they did not take advantage of opportunities offered. Opponents object that the overlay does not deal with all the zoning issues they see. On the other hand they oppose the overlay as tightening zoning regulations that would protect trees by providing adequate space for mature trees' root systems. I do not believe the opponents would work with others to achieve a widely accepted plan that they claim is their goal.

Forest Hills is a desirable place to live precisely because of the large and well-forested lots. But it is also continually at risk of slowly losing its character. Every year we see lots clear-cut and lots more intensely developed. The current zoning is inadequate to prevent the ongoing destruction of tree cover. Please give the overlay your careful consideration and bring to bear your extensive experience. There is widespread support for this proposal that I believe to be the majority of the community.

Sincerely yours,


Susan F. Gellert

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 02-19

Exhibit 275

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.275

To: Mr. Alberto Bastida
202-727-6072

From: Susan F. Gellert
202-752-4553

Re: Case 02-19

2002-10-07 11:03