

FROM THE DESK OF JAMES F. FLUG**TO: D.C. Zoning Commission****FROM: James F. Flug, Resident, Brandywine Street NW****RE: 02-19: Forest Hills Overlay: Prospects for Consensus**

I am encouraged by the indications that at least some members of the Commission agree that this matter is one on which the affected community should, if at all possible, first reach a broad consensus before the Commission is asked to impose a result.

In additional to my oral statement along those lines on September 5 as a very interested "neutral", I want to provide the Commission with the following information:

Although an unproductive August meeting reportedly resulted in an exchange of one-sided debaters' points like those in many of the materials, statements and petitions circulated in the community and presented to neighborhood meetings and the Commission, I am more persuaded than ever that there is substantial potential for movement toward a consensus. After that meeting, but before the September 5 hearing, I endeavored to call a small meeting of leaders among informed property owners on both sides, as I had promised one of the proponents I would do. While for scheduling reasons, the meeting did not occur, in the course of discussions with people on both sides, I was encouraged to find a great deal of flexibility and willingness to see whether steps toward compromise on key issues, if not a complete agreement, could be achieved. On at least one major hotly-controverted issue, I believe there is recognition by proponents that there is no magic to the particular formulations in the proposal, which have caused major concerns, and a willingness to consider other formulations. On another major issue, I sense willingness on both sides to compromise as part of an overall negotiation, even though each side is articulating inflexible polar positions publicly in the absence of serious discussions.

Thus, as long as my neighbors welcome it, or until someone else assumes the role, I will continue to attempt to be a catalyst for consensus based on informed and constructive discussion, in the hopes that we can, as directly affected neighbors – and in many cases friends, bring you a resolution which reflects our shared goals and concerns and does not divide us into warring camps.

I thank you for your time and effort on this matter, and your concerns for our community.

James F. Flug

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**ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia**

Case 02-19
Exhibit 277

**ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.277**