

Office of Zoning
441 4th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

February 6, 2003

To the members of the Zoning Commission:

We have been home owners in Forest Hills since 1959 and have observed the many changes that have occurred in this area over the years. Many of them have been improvements and it has given us great pleasure to see new families moving in and enjoying this particularly pleasant part of Washington.

However, there comes a time when a saturation point has been reached and that time is now. So we were pleased when the Commission's proposed Forest Hills Tree and Slope Protection Overlay was published in the December 13, 2002 D.C. Register. It clearly was the result of careful, thoughtful study and, most importantly, a desire to compromise - on both sides of this controversial issue. This proposal acknowledges the irreparable damage that can occur to the watershed and to the environment when overbuilding occurs on what was a hilly, forested area. Careless removal of trees and excavation for unnecessary construction simply adds to the general deterioration of the community and - in a larger sense - of the city.

The proposal, as it now stands, does not prohibit new building. It assures that such building will not commence until the Zoning Commission has been persuaded that the building will not adversely affect the immediate community and the general ambience of our city. This is not a big price to pay- for both new homeowners and those who have lived here for a number years - to maintain the character of Forest Hills. Presumably that is what has persuaded us to live here.

On a personal note, it is with some sadness I see the smaller, less pretentious homes in our community being torn down, or drastically remodeled, to make way for outsize houses which are far beyond the reach of the more moderate income families which I understand the city hopes to encourage to remain in Washington.

Please let the proposed Forest Hills Tree and Slope Protection Overlay remain as presented on December 13. Neither we in Forest Hills nor you on the Zoning Commission, who have spent countless hours wrestling with the problem, needs to question what seems to us as fair a solution as possible when dealing with such a controversial and important issue.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Bailey
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~~Zoning Commission~~
~~District of Columbia~~

Case 02-19
Exhibit 305

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
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