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Via Federal Express

February 8, 2003

Zoning Commission
C/O Mr. Alberto P. Bastida, AICP
Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW,
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

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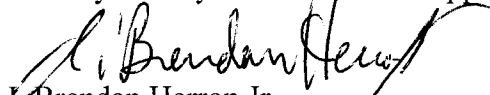
Re: Support of the Tree and Slope Overlay (Case No. 02-19 - Text Amendment Forest Hills)

Dear Commissioners:

As a proponent of the Tree and Slope Overlay, I want to share with you what a beautiful fall we had and to thank you for your efforts to protect the trees in Forest Hills. While I believe the Overlay in its present format is acceptable, I would encourage the board to consider a higher minimum lot size (10,000 square feet or more). The biggest risk to trees occurs when a developer subdivides a lot and places two or more houses on a lot with mature trees in a location different from the existing foundation. Even if they don't cut down the trees initially, the resulting root damage from new foundations and grading on 75 to 100+ year old trees is great. Testimony by the National Park Service and others show that it is likely that these trees will be killed in the process. For a similar reason, I oppose any attempt to reduce the side yard on new construction.

I thank the Zoning Commission for their effort to date and urge the Zoning Commission to finalize the Forest Hills Overlay in its present or a more restrictive form. I know from numerous conversations with my neighbors that the vast majority of my neighbors support the Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay.

Thank you for your interest and support in this matter.


J. Brendan Herron Jr.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 316

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.316