

Forest Hills Neighbors for Responsible Preservation
c/o 4835 Linnean Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008, 202-966-7734

12
July XX, 2004

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Room 210
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District/Zoning Commission Case
No. 02-19

Dear Members of the Commission:

As you will likely recall, one of our fundamental objections to the Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay now in effect (TSO) is the process by which it was set down. We have noted that the Forest Hills Citizens Association (FHCA, the applicant) stated that the request for the set down was being made on behalf of its members, and we pointed out that at no time did the FHCA survey its membership to ascertain its support for or opposition to the overlay they advocated.

The good news is that the FHCA has now conducted a survey. The bad news is that the results of the survey will be worthless to the Commission in ascertaining community opinions about the TSO compared to the Office of Planning's proposed canopy coverage alternative. We understand that the results of the survey are to be presented by the FHCA at your upcoming meeting on this matter on July 22, and we thought it was important for you to see a copy of the survey it sent out (attached). This survey was clearly designed to create a misleading sense of consensus in favor of the TSO.

As you will see, the questions are biased, offer false choices, and are replete with factual errors that will misguide respondents. Many of the questions can only be answered by indicating that one is either in favor of the TSO or against trees, or if one likes trees, one also supports strong protections of any kind to protect those trees (a particular favorite is Question 11). The survey does not disclose that it was designed and distributed by supporters of the TSO (see FHCA cover letter). In addition, some of the questions contain factually incorrect assertions, such as suggesting that current zoning regulations contain no restrictions on building size or lot coverage, that current law contains no protections for trees, that the National Park Service has endorsed the TSO as important for the protection of Rock Creek Park, or that the canopy proposal would permit unrestricted clear cutting of wooded lots.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 341

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 2
To: <u>Zoning Comm.</u>	From: <u>S. Sloame</u>	
Co.:	Co.:	
Dept. <u>Alberta Barista</u>	Phone #	ZONING COMMISSION District of Columbia
Fax #	Fax #	CASE NO.02-19 EXHIBIT NO.341

We anticipate that representatives of the FHCA will attempt to argue that the results of the survey strongly indicate community support for the TSO and concern that the alternative canopy proposal will be ineffectual in protecting large mature trees. When you carefully look at the questions, it is inevitable that such will be the results. We therefore caution Commission members from relying on it for any conclusions about community sentiment regarding the TSO or the canopy alternative.

Sincerely,

Mark and Laura Baughman, 4835 Linnean Ave., NW
Bob and Margie Shanks, 3002 Albemarle Street
OTHERS, LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

Stuart Sloame & Ellen Sefterman
4508 28 St., NW