

2605 TILDEN PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20008

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Room 210
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

July 19th, 2004

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

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am a resident of the Forest Hills overlay affected district and am writing against one proviso of the Office of Planning's proposed canopy coverage.

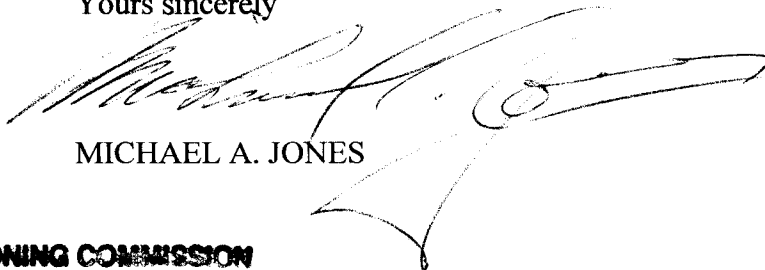
I am specifically concerned with the provision which stipulates that the felling of a tree as small as 24" in circumference triggers compliance with the canopy coverage restriction and the attendant inevitable cost delay and government interference. A 24" tree is small and will not affect the District's tree canopy or even a block's coverage in any meaningful way, but it could significantly affect an individual's right to landscape his property as he wishes. Therefore the negative affects of this provision greatly outweigh any positives, and I recommend that you delete it..

If the purpose of this section is to prevent 'clear cutting' it will not succeed because developers will find ways to circumvent it.

I also think that the canopy coverage should be reduced by 10 percentage points for each size lot. The present requirement amounts to a large chunk of a small lot leaving very little garden room after a house is built.

Otherwise I believe that the Office of Planning's proposal is a great improvement on the original overlay because it protects the trees with a great deal less government incursion into the rights of private property owners.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL A. JONES

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 349

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
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