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August 19, 2004

Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Alberto Bastida, Secretary
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay

Dear Mr. Bastida:

I am a 30 year resident of the District and have lived in Forest Hills for almost half that time. I appeared at the last Public Hearing on this matter and spoke in favor of the OP proposal. Earlier in this lengthy process I wrote in support of the original Forest Hills Proposal.

After mature reflection, it is my opinion that there is no immediate need for any zoning changes. Forest Hills is a mature community with a little infill construction here and there. No one is about to clear cut the neighborhood. That would not make sense.

The original proposal goes too far, changing many zoning requirements that have nothing to do with trees. It is a disguised anti development proposal. The District can ill afford it as we need to preserve neighborhoods so as to foster sensible development and increase the economic base. The original proposal discourages improvements to existing homes to make them better.

After reflecting on the clear problems with the original proposal, I have come to support the compromise developed by the Office of Planning after research and public meetings held in Forest Hills so that residents could be heard. My main concern is that the canopy requirement is too great. It should not be increased further if the OP Proposal is adopted.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter E. Halle

Peter E. Halle
2801 Chesterfield Place

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 374

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