

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Banks

**4838 Broad Branch Road, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1009**

June 13, 2002

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D.C. OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF
RECORDS & ADMINISTRATION

Re: "YES" to the Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay

To All Concerned:

We, the undersigned, are in receipt of a June 6 letter from "Forest Hills Neighbors For Responsible Preservation" and a June 11 letter from George Magher "and neighbors", both of which oppose a neighborhood tree and slope overlay as proposed. This letter is response to both.

With the generous financing made available under the GI Bill of Rights, we were able to construct our house and move into it 50 years ago this month. During the ensuing half century of continuous residence we have become extremely familiar with the terrain and topography of this "lovely residential community" and have formed definite opinions about the potential for deterioration which the increasing construction activity, currently and in recent years, has accelerated. Anyone who doubts that erosion is a serious problem should take a look at the land along the western side of Rock Creek Park in Forest Hills. The densely-packed, huge trees, many 60-100 feet high, with interlocking root structures counteract the on-going erosion of the steep slopes.

The proposal to institute a tree and slope overlay, such as is currently protecting the Palisades and Georgetown communities, will enhance and preserve the characteristics which have made the Forest Hills area so appealing. We strongly urge all involved to disregard the specious arguments advanced in both of these cited letters. For example, the letter of June 11 complains that curtailment of the right to pave one's lot to install an "impervious surface", is an unwarranted abridgement of property rights. That comment is obviously out-of-touch with current practice and ignores or is unaware that Fairfax County has just gone to court to enforce just such a curtailment.

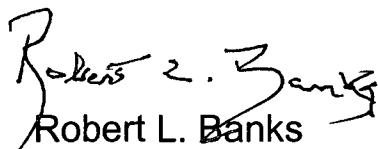
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 76
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 76

We are not new arrivals, Johnny-come-latelys with unknown motives. We are not contractors nor builders nor real estate developers nor real estate agents, many of who oppose the proposed overlay which they interpret as an impediment to their financial interests. Our sole interest here is in conserving and preserving what remains of the beautiful natural environment where we and all other Forest Hills residents have enjoyed living these many years and in precluding various attempts to assail, erode and degrade it. We note with interest that those who oppose the overlay advance no affirmative suggestions – some people are against any change, anywhere, any time and they ask for postponements hoping to negate the proposal. The overlay will benefit everyone who respects and protects this most environmentally-desirable neighborhood. A Forest Hills overlay will protect and reinforce the natural beauty of Rock Creek Park for current and future generations. Let's keep it that way! We citizens urge you to say "YES" and "NOW" to the overlay.

Sincerely,



Eslyn P. Banks



Robert L. Banks

RLB:EPB:lh