

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

June 14, 2002

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Re: Case No. 02-19

Dear Mr. Bastida:

We are writing in support of the proposed Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay. As residents of the Forest Hills neighborhood, we are extremely concerned about the recent massive indiscriminate clear cutting of mature trees in our neighborhood, including trees adjacent to Rock Creek Park and its tributaries, to make way for in-fill development of "McMansions". In recent months it seems that no tree is too old or beautiful to be cut, and no slope is too steep or near Rock Creek Park to be built upon. At a time when the City is making a concerted effort to preserve and replace the trees that make Washington unique among major urban centers, the developers in our neighborhood are rapidly cutting down some of the City's oldest trees. Just this past week, a number of mature trees were cut on a steep slope near Davenport and Broadbranch, within 100 feet of the point where a stream joins Broadbranch Creek above Rock Creek. Pile drivers arrived and began constructing a metal frame on the slope, Hong Kong style, as the slope is too steep to allow normal construction. This type of building threatens not only the character of our neighborhood, but also the fragile urban wilderness that forms our oldest national park.

We are not people who lightly disregard private property right. Nevertheless, it is clear to us that something must be done to protect our neighborhood and the Park from the disregard and apparent contempt of developers for both the character of Forest Hills and the unique urban environment of our City. We respectfully request that the Zoning Commission act favorably on the proposed Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay.

Sincerely,

Margie and Bob Shanks

Margie and Bob Shanks
3002 Albemarle Street, NW

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 84

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.84