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02-25

Chairwoman Carol Mitten
DC Zoning Board
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairwoman Mitten:

I write to share my opposition for the University of Notre Dame's (UND) request for rezoning of 1615 New Hampshire Ave, N.W. for dormitory living. The following are my opinions and concerns regarding the rezoning of such property:

- Waiving the zoning restriction to allow for this dormitory sets a dangerous precedent, especially with respect to allowing the facility to limit space per individual to some 300 sq. feet. Should UND sell the building in the future, there is no limit to how the building might be used.

- The building should be used to enhance the area's marketability - perhaps turned into condos so that residents have a stake in the neighborhood and real estate values would not be diminished.

- The District already provides ample space to universities and there are other Catholic schools in the area. UND should seek to house their students on existing tax exempt properties – perhaps sharing space with Georgetown or Catholic Universities.

In summary, the UND proposal is inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood and should seek out other locations. Our neighbors should have the right to uphold the values of our community and not be made to live "on campus."

Therefore, I strongly urge the Zoning Board to reject this rezoning proposal.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Seitz

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-25
Exhibit 42

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-25
EXHIBIT NO.42