Donald C. Morency
2500 Virginia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 NOV 20 PM 3:24

November 20, 2002

To: Chairwoman Carol J. Mitten, District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Vice Chairman, Anthony Hood, District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Commissioner James Hannahan, District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Commissioner Peter May, District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Commissioner John Parsons, District of Columbia Zoning Commission

From: Donald C. Morency, former Commissioner ANC 2A04

Subject: Case #0226 – request for relief from Order #15942 to permit use of The George Washington University Health & Wellness Center by ANC 2A residents

1. I strongly recommend your approval of relief from order #15942 sought by The George Washington University to allow the residents of ANC 2A to utilize their Health and Wellness Center facilities. It is a state-of-the-art facility which the University wants to share with the community and which the residents would welcome as an opportunity to establish and maintain fitness programs.

2. As a resident of Foggy Bottom for 33 years and former Commissioner for ANC 2A04, a significant number of the residents who were in my constituency have been eager to see the facility opened up to the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. With the backing of residents from the Watergate, Potomac Plaza and St. Mary's Court, another commissioner and I were in consultation with the University this year to surface the issue and seek relief from Order #15942 and open up the Health and Wellness Center for use by ANC 2A community.

3. The original rationale behind the restrictive use to faculty and students alone was based on traffic congestion and noise, both of which have proven to be non-issues. It was thought that there would be a significant increase in traffic in and around the facility, but history has shown that it is practically all foot traffic; furthermore, there are no places to park and there is a metro stop less than a block from the facility. As for the increase in noise level, I have been walking around the area on a regular basis since the Center opened, and there is no noise emanating from the well-insulated building nor are there any gatherings of groups of people outside the Center that would add to the noise level. Students go to the facility to work out and when they leave they are tired and head to their residences. It is not a place where people hang out.

4. Given the high usage of the facility by the faculty and students, those residents whom I mentioned above have no objection to extending the hours of the Center to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to avail themselves of the Center's equipment and facilities. As a matter of fact, it's a shame that this high tech facility is not open longer hours so that more people can benefit from it.

5. With a world of increasingly obese people and with government and the medical community encouraging people to engage in regular fitness programs for healthier living, your approval to open up this facility to the local community with increased hours of operation would be a positive step towards a better quality of life for our residents.

Donald C. Morency

Zoning Commission
District of Columbia
Case 02-26
Exhibit 19

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-26
EXHIBIT NO.19