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Carol Mitten, Chair
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the Commission:

I am pleased to write to you in support of the application by the Department of Mental Health in Zoning Commission Case No. 02-45. I reside at BARNABY TR, SE, just 5 blocks from the St. Elizabeths campus. (I represent ERCDC organization, which COMM-NON-PROFIT.)

Those of us in the neighborhood view St. Elizabeths Hospital and its gracious campus as a community asset, with its historic buildings, open spaces, trees and landscaping. The most important thing about the hospital, however, is its function. St. Elizabeths was established as the first mental hospital in the United States and has continued for many years in the forefront of mental health treatment in this country. Therefore, the plans to build a modern, new hospital designed for the most effective treatment and decent living environment for mentally ill people is a great step forward.

I, like many others, am aware that the facilities and general conditions for patients as well as the doctors and staff have deteriorated seriously over the years. The new hospital seems carefully designed to correct these long-standing problems and instead provide a state-of-the-art facility that will be beneficial for patients and staff alike. My neighbors and I do not believe there will be any negative effects on the neighborhood from the new hospital, as it will use the same access road that already exists on Alabama Avenue, and the number of patients and staff is not increasing.

Please approve the plans submitted by the Department of Mental Health so that this worthwhile treatment facility can proceed to be built and used.

Sincerely,

TERRY B
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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-45
Exhibit 21

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-45
EXHIBIT NO.21