Public Library
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Anacostia
Benning
Capitol View
Chevy Chase
Cleveland Park
Francis A. Gregory/ Fort Davis
Georgetown
Juanita E. Thornton/ Shepherd Park
Lamond-Riggs
Mount Pleasant
Northeast
Palisades
Petworth
Southeast
Southwest
Takoma Park
Tenley-Friendship
Washington Highlands
Watha T. Daniel/Shaw
West End
Woodridge

Langston
Parklands-Turner
R.L. Christian
Sursum Corda
Deanwood Kiosk

Engaging Minds, Expanding Opportunities.

September 10, 2003

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Via Facsimile [202-727-6072] and Regular Mail

Ms. Carol J. Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission for
The District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

RE: District of Columbia Public Library
Case No. 03-10 (Text Amendment-Public Libraries)
"Library Use" Definition

Dear Ms. Mitten:

At the July 31, 2003 hearing in which the above referenced Text Amendment was adopted the Commission requested that the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) provide a definition of "library use" in the twenty-first century.

As a preface to a definition it is important to note that the technological revolution in information has shaped architectural and programmatic trends for new and existing library services and programs. This revolution in library use is due to the fact that the public library is the only public institution that provides **free access** to Web and print information. In a recent survey sponsored by the American Library Association, ninety-one percent (91%) of the those surveyed indicated that public libraries will exist in the future, even in the face of the availability of information via the internet.

"Library use" in the twenty-first century is defined as follows:

> A public library is used primarily for educational purposes where people seek to expand their learning, training and self-help requirements. Examples include, but are not limited to, learning to read, pursuing higher learning, gaining or enhancing employment opportunities. A public library is also used as an entertainment venue for the entire family through a variety of children's activities, movies/videos, CD's, DVD's, browsing of newspapers/magazines, book discussion groups, specialized pre-school and senior programs.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-10
Exhibit 22

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-10
EXHIBIT NO.22

The public library is the institution that has the ability to level the playing field among various economic classes by making its resources available to all, regardless of income, race, class or community. Public libraries further breakdown these barriers through free family literacy programs, multi-cultural materials and outreach programs to the homeless, blind and physically challenged.

Should the Commission require any additional information, please feel free to have staff contact me at 202-727-4913.

Sincerely,

Shirley Tolbert Diamond

Cc:

Alberto Bastida	Zoning Commission
Kim Green	DCPL Capital Construction
Molly Raphael	DCPL, Director