REZONE NO!

Case Number: 0316
Applicant: Monument Realty LLC
Property Address: Watergate Hotel, Foggy Bottom

February 24, 2004

Commissioners,

My name is Roni Meyers and I am the manager at the Watergate Sport and Health Club located in the Watergate Hotel at 2650 Virginia Avenue, NW. I respectfully ask the Zoning Commission to reject the applicant's request to rezone the Watergate Hotel. If the variance is granted our situation in the neighborhood and at the health club will change.

The club and hotel provide key benefits to those residents of the Watergate complex who purchase apartments here and are especially important for retirees. The club provides a range of valuable services to the residents of this neighborhood. Personal training and massage services improve quality of life and longevity.

We have members of all ages but the majority are elderly. Many of them require assistance in their work out routine because of physical limitations, while some just prefer the discipline of working with a trainer. This is key to their present quality of life. We also offer post rehabilitation, which allows members to transition from physical therapy to a more normal routine. Water exercise classes provide an alternative work out to those with joint and other limitations. Our group exercise classes also offer other exercise choices to balance out the members cardiovascular and weight training with yoga, stretching and pilates.

Our club also provides a comfortable, quiet, uncrowded place to work out, not to mention that we have the best pool in the city.

While the perspective buyer has agreed to maintain a club, there is no guarantee that the club will continue to operate in its present fashion. The members who are residents of the neighborhood (outside of the Watergate complex) and those who work in area businesses would lose their health club.

In terms of employment, many of the club's key employees have worked here for years. At least 5 of these employees have worked at the club over 20 years (3 have been here over 30 years and are working full time). Because of the low turn over, many relationships have developed with the members adding to the quality of service that we offer. While not your concern, the unemployment and displacement of my employees (and those of the hotel, which will result if the variance is granted) is of great concern to me.

Thank you for your consideration and we are counting on you to make the best decision for the neighborhood.

Yours in fitness and health,

Roni Meyers

Roni Meyers

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case No. 03-16
Exhibit No. 74

ZONING COMMISSION
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EXHIBIT NO.74