REZONE NO!

Carol Mitten, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street, NW Rm 210
Washington, DC 20001

2/25/04

Madam Chair,

I have lived at Watergate East #303N since 1998. Life within the Watergate community has been peaceful. That was until we discovered that the Watergate Hotel may be sold to a developer and converted into a luxury apartment building.

The people who have joined together to oppose the sale have different reasons for their opposistion. To some, it is the rehabilitative services provided to our elderly population by the Health Club. And, others wish to preserve the Watergate Hotel as an historic landmark. Mine is a different reason.

The Watergate Hotel provides employment for more than 200 restaurant and hotel workers and affiliated services. The effort push these men and women into the ranks of the unemployed merits the closest scrutiny.

Some argue that despite the unfortunate side effect of putting this number of people into unemployment, we must consider the economic benefit that the new and very wealthy District residents will contribute to City Government coffers.

This claim is on its face unsupported by any information provided by the applicant. If we gauge our actions by this criterion alone, let us be sure that the applicant's claim is correct.

We can see that hard data may support the accuracy of our intuition: That the revenue stream from employee payroll, hotel tax, and other business taxes may make potential revenue increase negligible or even non existent.

The Commission may make a decision that will inflict hardship on more than 200 individuals. Let us first be sure that our "hard nosed" decision does not leave one with only a nose bleed.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Ann Goldberg

District of Columbia
03-16
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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-16
EXHIBIT NO.77