Zoning Commission Hearing
March 1, 2004
PUD Modification, Watergate Hotel -- BZA Case No. 03-16

Good evening Chairman Mitten and Members of the Commission:

My name is Barbara Spillinger. I am a resident of Watergate East, 2500 Virginia Avenue, NW, a former ANC chair, and currently vice president of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), in which latter capacity I appear before you this evening.

The Foggy Bottom Association is a citizen organization whose more than 400 members live in the Foggy Bottom/West End quadrant of the city. The FBA strongly supports Mayor Anthony Williams' call to build the tax-paying permanent residential base of the District. We believe that the Mayor's initiative in this regard is essential to the economic well-being of our city.

The Board of the FBA initially joined with ANC-2A in opposing the PUD amendment application by Monument Residential LLC. That opposition was based on the then unanimous opposition to the proposal of the three residential Watergate Cooperatives; and on October 31, 2003, FBA President Ron Cocome addressed a letter to the Zoning Commission in which he asked the Commission to defer consideration of this proposal "until a time when there is sufficient assurance as to the specific nature of any conversion of the hotel property to apartment usage."

With Monument's latest detailed proposal to convert the hotel to a cooperative residence, this time has now come -- and the solid opposition of the Watergate complex, as you will find this evening, no longer exists.

At a meeting of the FBA Board on February 17, 2004, by a vote of 8-1, the Board gave its support to the proposed PUD modification, based largely on FBA's long standing position of promoting the infusion of permanent, tax-paying residents into Foggy Bottom/West End.

I would be pleased to try to answer any questions you might have, and I thank you for the opportunity to appear this evening.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
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Exhibit 106

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EXHIBIT NO.106