**Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia**
**Public Hearing**

**Thursday, June 3, 2004, 6:30 p.m.**
**Office of Zoning Hearing Room**
**441 4th Street, N.., Suite 220-South**
**Washington, D.C. 20001**

Case No. 04-01 ( (2215 Constitution Avenue, N.W. – American Pharmacist Association

**Statement of Witness**
**Dr. Valerie W. Hogue**
**Associate Professor**
**Howard University School of Pharmacy**

*Valerie W Hogue, Pharm D , CDE*
*Associate Professor*
*Howard University School of Pharmacy*

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 04-01
Exhibit 26

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Good evening. My name is Valerie W Hogue and I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy Sciences at Howard University School of Pharmacy. I would like to thank the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for providing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) in consideration of its application for the construction of a new building in Washington, D.C. I would like to briefly discuss my association with APhA and describe the capacity in which I have worked with the Association.

I am a pharmacist and an educator, both to students and patients. I currently practice as a clinical care coordinator and health educator at CVS Health Connection located at 845 Bladensburg Road, N.E., Washington, D.C. I provide individualized and group education for adults and children with diabetes, asthma, hypertension and other chronic diseases. This health education resource center located inside a CVS Pharmacy.

As a result of the work that my colleagues and I have been doing to address the health education needs in our community, I was asked by the American Pharmacists Association last year to serve as program speaker for a continuing education program for pharmacists titled, *"Pediatric Asthma. Identifying and Managing Underserved Patients"*. This program was co-sponsored with the D.C. Pharmaceutical Association. During the program, I discussed how asthma is a physically and emotionally debilitating disease that affects nearly 5 million children in the United States, and has been increasing in prevalence. Minority children who live in inner-city communities like the District of Columbia are at particularly high risk for having poorly controlled asthma. Such children are significantly more likely to experience asthma-related restrictions in daily activities, exacerbations, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and death.

Educating patients and their families about the importance of asthma therapy and appropriate management skills can greatly reduce the burden of asthma. Because pharmacists are the most accessible health care providers, they can assist in the identification of children who suffer from asthma and guide patients and their caregivers in seeking the appropriate treatment. In 2002, approximately 9.1% of District of Columbia adults reported having asthma, which occurred highest among African Americans and people with lower incomes and education levels Considering that the District of Columbia has a prevalence rate for asthma higher than the national rate (9.1% vs. 7.5%), pharmacists with the knowledge necessary to assist patients in the management of their disease can have a direct impact on the health of our citizens. [1] [2]

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[1] Asthma Fact Sheet. District of Columbia Department of Health, Maternal and Family Health Administration

[2] Asthma Prevalence and Control Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity—United States, 2002 CDC MMR Weekly, February 27, 2004, 53(07), 145-148

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According to the results of the program evaluation, the symposium was well received by pharmacists who attended and responded to the survey. More importantly, 66% of the respondents reported that they had implemented some or a lot of the information presented during the program into their current practice. Specifically, changes that attendees reported making included, updating clinic/practice materials (55%), becoming more comfortable working with the pediatric population (55%), gaining greater appreciation of the importance of adherence to specific asthma medications (44%), treating asthma patients with greater mindfulness (33%), and using resources provided to assist consumers without insurance to obtain pharmaceutical products (33%) In my opinion, this program has provided critical information to improve the care of pediatric asthma patients by pharmacists in the District of Columbia

These reasons indicate why a program such as this, sponsored by APhA, is an important one for our community. It has the potential to have a positive impact on the therapeutic outcomes of asthma patients in our city through education provided by pharmacists in their community.

Approving this zoning application would allow APhA to expand its operations, enabling it to continue to work with us for the benefit of the District's residents, and potentially allow it to expand its participation with our program. The additional space for offices and programs would be utilized over time. Certainly, as the profession of pharmacy grows, an organization such as APhA, which represents every pharmacist, should be able to provide programs that support our growing needs as professionals.

Therefore, I would like to express my strongest support on behalf of the American Pharmacists Association, and I hope that the Zoning Commission will approve this construction application. Thank you for the opportunity to communicate my support.

*Valerie W Hogue, Pharm.D , CDE*
*Associate Professor*
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