

June 7, 2006

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chairperson, D. C. Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
Room 210
441 4th Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20001

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Dear Ms. Mitten:

The Arboretum Community is asking for your approval of Abdo Construction's hearing request for a consolidated review.

The Arboretum Community has been presented with the proposed Abdo project and has approved it overwhelmingly.

For many years, we have expressed to the Office of Planning and elected officials our wishes for an initiative in this space which would meet the desires of the community. For the first time, we have overwhelmingly voted to accept a proposed plan for this site. Therefore, we do not want to lose this development.

Currently, this site is in a most unacceptable state, with its junk yards and numerous car repair shops, etc. It serves as an embarrassment to the community, and should serve as an embarrassment to the City and the Nation. This site is located at one of the most significant gateways to our Nation's Capitol.

When then President Clinton and Vice President Gore visited our Arboretum Community and the National Arboretum, the press described the subject area as "blighted". Annually we have thousands of international visitors come through this area en route to the National Arboretum; and more significantly, this gateway shows its ugly face to countless visitors who travel along New York Avenue and/or Bladensburg Road.

Right now, this project has the full approval of the following:

- Arboretum Community
- ANC 5B09
- ANC 5B
- Councilmember Vincent Orange
- The Planning Office

Rarely does a project come with this much up front support.

For years, our community has been in fear of what might be put in this space. Every previous proposal has been opposed by us. Now we need your help!

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

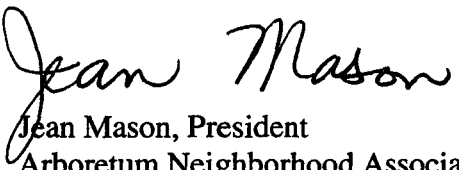
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EXHIBIT NO. 17

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With your approval of the desired hearing, we are confident all of your concerns can be articulated and successfully addressed.

Sincerely yours,


Joan Black
Commissioner
ANC 5B09


Jean Mason, President
Arboretum Neighborhood Association

cc: Deborah Crain
Office of Planning

Vincent Orange
Councilmember, Ward 5

Sheldon Williams
ANC 5B

Phil Mendelson
Councilmember At-Large