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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

AM 10:39

June 8, 2006

Esther Bushman, General Counsel  
District of Columbia Office of Zoning  
Room 200 S  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

#06-15

Ms. Bushman. *Esther*

As discussed, I am forwarding a copy of the correspondence that was addressed to Ms. Mitten. Please share this with Ms. Kress.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (202) 724-8035 or have Ms. Kress contact Councilmember Orange at (202) 724-8028.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Donna M. Cooper*

Donna M. Cooper  
Committee on Government Operations

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-15 FAX

EXHIBIT NO. 18

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 06-15  
EXHIBIT NO. 18

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June 7, 2006

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

2006 JUN -8 AM 10:40

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

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.

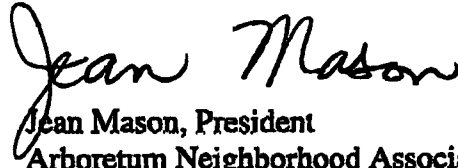
For years, our community has been in fear of what might be put in this space. Every previous proposal has been opposed by us. Now we need your help!

Page 2 – Chairperson Carol Mitten

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

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**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004**

**Vincent B. Orange, Sr., Chairperson**

**Committee on Government Operations  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 117  
Washington, DC 20004**

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DC OFFICE OF PLANNING

JUN 8 10:39 AM '06

**Fax Transmittal**

#06-15

**To: Esther Bushman, General Counsel  
District of Columbia Office of Zoning**

**Fax: 202-727-6072**

**From: Donna M. Cooper  
Committee on Government Operations**

**Date: 6/8/06**

**Re: Correspondence Discussed**

**Pages: 4 (Incl. Cover)**

**NOTES:**

**Esther, sorry for the delay in forwarding this, however, I wanted to speak to the Councilmember, prior to sending it over.**

**Donna**

**Should you have questions, please contact:**

**Donna M. Cooper  
Committee on Government Operations  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 117  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 724-8035**