

November 26, 2006

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director of the District of Columbia Office of Zoning
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 2004

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

My name is Brother James Menkhus, OFM Cap., a Roman Catholic Capuchin-Franciscan friar, and Guardian (Religious Superior) of Capuchin College on the corner of Harewood Road and Taylor in Northeast Washington, DC. Because we live next to Catholic University, in the northeast corner apposite their property, we have taken some interest in CUA's building proposal.

Capuchin College is a religious house of studies comprised of 28—30 men who are teachers, chaplains, and students (at CUA and other educational institutions). We have been on this corner property since 1917. Since we are a Roman Catholic religious order, we conduct our own prayer schedule, and live a simple, common life in fraternity. Those who study and teach at Catholic University also take advantage of the various cultural and recreational offerings of the campus.

It was with some personal interest that Brother Bob Toomey, OFM Cap. (my vicar) and myself attended the October 31st meeting regarding the upcoming building projects at CUA. We were concerned that the proposed dormitory buildings were going to be built next to our own residential wing. When we actually saw the plans and heard the presentation, we were delighted. The placement of the dormitories makes sense; it will beautify the campus, and will ultimately make our neighborhood safer.

The new maintenance building will be closest to our property, and seems like a reasonable placement. With the additional assurances that care has been taken to maintain the visual image of the landscape, we feel confident that the proposed additions will not only benefit Catholic University, but also be of benefit to its neighbors such as ourselves. We consider Catholic University to be a good neighbor, and we sincerely hope that their plans are able to proceed without a hitch.

Sincerely Yours,

James Menkhus, OFM Cap.

Brother James Menkhus, OFM Cap.
Guardian of Capuchin College



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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 04-89

EXHIBIT NO. 13 ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia
CASE NO.06-39
EXHIBIT NO.13

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