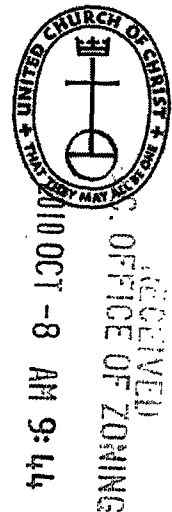




First Congregational
United Church of Christ
309 E St. NW
Washington, DC 20001
*An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Multiracial/Multicultural Congregation*
Worship Sunday 1:00 pm, 4th and E St. NW
www.fccuccdc.org - 202.628.4317

September 30, 2010

Zoning Commission for the
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001



Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 10-18, proposed text amendment

Dear Members of the Commission:

I submit this letter on behalf of the First Congregational United Church of Christ. The congregation owns a portion of the new development taking place in the southwest corner of Square 375, at the corner of 10th and G Streets, NW.

The Church was founded by abolitionists in 1865 at the end of the Civil War. It was the first racially-inclusive church in Washington, DC. The original building was dedicated at the 10th and G site in 1866. In the 1950's, the trustees of the Church voted to sell the building and relocate to the suburbs, but the congregation rose up, rejected that proposal, and voted to remain as a downtown church. In 1959, due to the accumulation of wear and tear, the original structure was razed and a brick building constructed on the site. A few years ago, in a renewal of its commitment to downtown DC, the congregation decided to redevelop the site to include a new sanctuary and facilities for the Church. The brick building was razed in 2007. Construction of the new building is well underway. The congregation is proud to be a part of the remarkable and beautiful redevelopment of the site.

The Church supports the text amendment proposed in Zoning Commission Case No. 10-18. It is our understanding that this text amendment will expand the types of restaurant uses permitted as preferred uses of the ground floor of the developments in Square 375 and will specifically impact the space along G Place and a portion of 10th Street. Given the history of the development and the current configuration of the ground floor space, we believe that a wider range of permitted uses will maximize the productive use of the space, and serve well both our congregation and our neighbors, while advancing the District's plans for this area of the city.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and request that the Zoning Commission approve the text amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall S. Herrick-Stare

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-18
EXHIBIT NO. 7

progressive Christian community in the heart of the city seeking the well-being of the city

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.10-18
EXHIBIT NO.7