

Z.C. Case No. 14-21

OUTLINE OF TESTIMONY

**Steven E. Sher
Holland & Knight LLP**

- I. Site Location and Description
- II. Description of Surrounding Area
- III. Zoning Overview
- IV. Proposed Development
- V. Compliance with PUD requirements (Chapter 24)
- VI. Consistency with Comprehensive Plan
- VII. Conclusions



Steven E. Sher, Director of Zoning and Land Use Services, has more than 30 years' experience as the leading consultant in the Zoning Regulations and development processes in the District of Columbia. For more than 18 years, he has advised developers and property owners on the interpretation and application of development regulations and approval processes in the city. He has appeared as an expert witness in zoning and planning before the District of Columbia Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustment, Historic Preservation Review Board and the Mayor's Agent for the historic preservation act, before the Zoning Hearing

Examiner and the Planning Board in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in local and federal courts. Recent major cases in which he has played a leading role include the MCI Center, the new Washington Convention Center, the residential/retail/hotel complex at 2200 M Street for the Ritz Carlton, and the planned redevelopment of the old Hecht's block at 7th and F Streets, the Station Place office development adjacent to Union Station, to be the new headquarters for the SEC, the International Monetary Fund's Headquarters II office building at 1900 Pennsylvania Avenue, the new headquarters for the U.S. Department of Transportation at the Southeast Federal Center and the redevelopment of the Capper/Carrollburg public housing projects in Southeast using a HOPE VI grant.

For more than 14 years, Mr. Sher was employed in the various zoning and planning offices of the District of Columbia. As one of the chief technical staff persons for the Zoning Commission, he played a significant role in drafting major portions of the present Zoning Regulations, including the waterfront and mixed use (CR) districts, the regulations concerning community based residential facilities, the planned unit development regulations and the regulations governing parking and loading.

For eight years, Mr. Sher served as the Executive Director of the Zoning Secretariat. As such, he was the chief executive/operating/administrative officer for the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment of the District of Columbia. Mr. Sher supervised the handling of over 1,600 cases before the Board of Zoning Adjustment and numerous rezoning, planned unit development and text amendment cases before the Zoning Commission. Matters which he assisted the Zoning Commission in resolving included the rezoning of the Dupont Circle area, the Hotel-Residential Incentive District, implementation of the Foreign Missions Act and major development cases such as McLean Gardens, Techworld, Lafayette Center and the Sumner-Magruder schools redevelopment. Mr. Sher represented the Zoning Commission and the BZA before Congress, the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor and other public agencies.

Mr. Sher is a member of Lambda Alpha, the honorary land economics society, and the American Planning Association. He also served on the Mayor's Commission on Downtown Housing, various task forces of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the D.C. Building Industry Association and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Metropolitan Development Community Advisory Committee. He has also served as guest lecturer at various universities on planning and zoning issues.

Mr. Sher received a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University.