



THE CLEVELAND PARK
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

Minister
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ZONING SECRETARIAT,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

7 January 1988

Mr. Lindsley Williams, Chairman
D. C. Zoning Commission
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Williams:

re: Zoning Commission Case #86-26

As a pastor with a church in the heart of Cleveland Park and parishioners along both the Connecticut and Wisconsin corridors - I want to write to you to urge that the D. C. Zoning Commission support the Comprehensive Plan which says that the area on Connecticut Avenue involved in Case #86-26 remain a "Low-density, local neighborhood center."

I wish you could have seen the packed meeting room at Cleveland Park Library several months ago - we were meeting deeply concerned neighbors - over the closing of the Safeway. You would have seen the neighborhood - old people deeply troubled about where to shop; handicapped people with walkers and canes - fearful of the complications added to their lives with no where to shop; parents with children on backs and in strollers - we are a walking neighborhood and therefore in need of the kinds of services established over long years which are easily accessible and affordable.

You know all too well the seductive arguments of the developers of huge, expensive buildings. They promise neighborhood services and assured tenancy to local merchants. I would be interested in seeing a special kind of list that such developers would provide - a list of tenants and the length of occupancy in buildings already built in other places. - You know what we would discover - nothing surprising - just another offering of high-priced services we don't need or want, old neighborhood businesses who chose to lease gradually eased out by high rent - specialized businesses that are irrelevant to neighborhood needs.

We need to have you not only listen - but to hear our suggestions.- We are not anti-development - but for appropriate development. I feel the experts - your best and most valuable consultants are those of us who live and work here.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Dodds

RLD/h

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 86-26
EXHIBIT No. 162
District of Columbia
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