

86-26
and
87-36C

Eric Hirschhorn

2755 Ordway Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

January 13, 1988

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

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the petition by the Cleveland Park Historical Society (Case #86-26) to rezone the area around Connecticut Avenue in Cleveland Park. I believe that the changes requested in their petition are reasonable and relatively minor and they would improve the likelihood of beneficial development in the area.

As a resident and unit owner in the building immediately adjacent to the Park and Shop site, my most immediate concerns are with the development of that location. In my opinion, the Park and Shop has neither historic nor esthetic value. It is the type of "suburban-style" shopping strip that the Historical Society would oppose if it were suggested as a replacement for anything else that might be there. I believe that replacing the Park and Shop with a building that includes retail and a limited amount of commercial space, perhaps in addition to residential space, could be of very genuine value. Since this site is at a Metro station, these benefits could extend beyond the surrounding neighborhood to a broader area.

Although I support some degree of development, I think that it is important to limit the extent of commercial (by which I mean non-retail and non-residential) development in Cleveland Park as well as elsewhere along Connecticut Avenue. The extensive development along Wisconsin Avenue in the past few years has severely limited the number of neighborhoods in the District that share this area's attributes. The availability of areas that are easily accessible but primarily residential is important to maintain the diversity and vitality of the District as a place to live and work.

Definitive action by the Zoning Commission can foster progress, particularly with regard to development at the Park and Shop site, by removing uncertainty about the degree to which commercial development will be permitted in this area. I think that the changes requested in the Cleveland Park Historical Society's petition would protect the character of the neighborhood as well as provide a basis for reasonable development. Thank you very much.

ZONING COMMISSION

CASE No. 86-26

EXHIBIT No. 183

Sincerely,

Eric Hirschhorn

Eric Hirschhorn

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.86-26
EXHIBIT NO.183

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