

3317 Newark Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008
January 21, 1988

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Mr. Lindsley Williams, Chairman
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Zoning Case No. 86-26
Cleveland Park Commercial
Downzoning from C-2-A to C-1

Case-----86-26
Exhibit-----208

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

My wife Jeanne and I have been homeowners in Cleveland Park for over thirty five years. All four of our now grown children attended John Eaton School, where Jeanne was active as an officer of PTA. I also served at PTA President at Alice Deal Junior High, and on the Committee for Boundary changes to promote more meaningful integrations of teachers and students.

Our family roots are here; and we are committed to supporting what is best for Cleveland Park, recognizing that Cleveland Park is not an island, but is a great neighborhood in a great Catipal City.

We want our City to continue to provide the trash removal, police and fire protection, the educational and senior citizen programs and the many other municipal services to which we have become accustomed, with some improvement in emergency ambulance service and more accurate billing for water.

Just to maintain these services at present level will require a stronger tax base than the City now has; and there is a real scarcity in the District of Fallow and unused land which could be developed in a balanced and proper way to shore up the tax base.

There are many retired people living in Cleveland Park, who raised and educated their children and would like to maintain the family home to which the children enjoy returning. Surely we must realize that the already high real estate taxes on our residences must be made much more burdensome unless the owners of such land are allowed and encouraged to develop it in a way which will serve the community, the City, and its visitors, and at the same time expand the City's tax base for essential revenues.

The Connecticut Avenue stores where we shop (between Porter Street and the National Zoo) cater to a much larger patronage than the residents of Cleveland Park. They are situated on the Red Line, serviced by the L Bus Routes, within walking distance of the National Cathedral, the Zoo, large convention hotels, whose visitors have been known to stretch their legs and patronize the shops, restaurants and theater in our Cleveland Park Connecticut corridor.

The shopkeepers in the area, who suffered the blasts and barricades of the Metro construction years, need revision now for their patience, not "DOWNZONING"!

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4/1/2/1/4

The President of the Cleveland Park Historical Society, at a neighborhood "Town Meeting" on January 16th sought to assure residents and shopkeepers that this Hearing is not intended to seek "Downzoning" from C-2-A to C-1 in the Connecticut corridor from Porter Street to the Zoo. Such assurance is at odds with discussion in the Newsletter of the CPHS (Vol1, No. 2.)

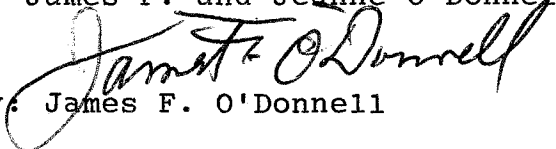
The flyers of the CPHS announcing the January 16th "Town Meeting" resorted to scare tactics and deception in seeking support for its "Downzoning" Proposal , coupled with its opposition to the PUD as currently proposed for 3501 Connecticut Avenue. By presenting and highlighting in these flyers, distributed to our homes, a drawing of an ugly, ill-designed, massive building, and claiming that such represents the developer's current proposal, CPHS and the ANC-3-C Commissioner who prepared the deceptive drawing, have wittingly or otherwise sought to use "Scare Tactics" to rally the Cleveland Park residents and others to support the Zoning Application before the Commission today.

We ask the Commission to insist that the pros and cons of this issue be played out on a fair field and that petitions and expressions of support induced or encouraged by misleading flyers and falsely attributed sources be weighed accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Respectfully submitted

James F. and Jeanne O'Donnell

By:  James F. O'Donnell