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Re: Zoning Commission Case #86-26
Cleveland Park/Woodley Park

Statement for Zoning Commission Hearing
in Support of Recommendations,
by Iona House Citizens Advisory Council
Monday, January 25, 1988

Mr. Williams, and members of the panel. We appreciate this opportunity for comment in support of the rezoning recommendations for the Connecticut Avenue area of Cleveland Park and Woodley Park.

My name is Ruth Haugen, 2800 Woodley Road N.W. I am here as Co-Chair of the Iona House Senior Services Citizens Advisory Council, a forty member voluntary group of Northwest Washington citizens and professionals who carry out public education and advocacy on behalf of the older residents of the Iona House service area. This area includes all of Ward 3 and adjacent areas of Wards 1 and 2. The other Co-Chair is Sue Whitman, 3973 Harrison St. N.W. We are also both Mayoral appointments to the D.C. Commission on Aging provided for by D.C. Law 1 - 24 (the D.C. Act on Aging, effective October 1, 1975), which provides a statutory basis for our advocacy.

Iona House Senior Services is designated by the D.C. Office on Aging as one of five lead agencies which carry out planning and coordinating as well as service functions. It is a private non-profit organization which works closely with religious and community groups as well as D.C. government. One of its service locations is near the corner of Connecticut and Porter, the Adas Israel Synagogue, where 30 - 50 senior citizens have a hot lunch and enjoy activities every week day.

Ward 3 as a whole has an exceptionally high proportion of older persons: 25% of its citizens are 60 or older and 12% are 75 or older. (All demographic information based on 1980 U.S. Census.) More than one-fifth of the city's 60 and older population live in Ward 3. Even more striking than these statistics is the concentration of older people in the Connecticut Ave. corridor. ANC 3C and ANC 3F, which cover the neighborhoods of Cleveland Park and Woodley Park, house 43.5 % of all older people in the Ward. The D.C. Office on Aging Planning and Research Unit Report of Nov. 1987 states that 50% of the seniors in Ward 3 live within one mile of Connecticut Ave. Clearly this is a critically important segment of the population for the Zoning Commission to consider in reviewing potential. **ZONING COMMISSION**

CASE No. 86-26 **ZONING COMMISSION**
EXHIBIT No. 247 District of Columbia
CASE NO. 86-26
EXHIBIT NO. 247



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Our interest is in maintaining and strengthening the low density and local neighborhood centers concept of the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. While access to local services is desired for all residents of the neighborhood, it is especially necessary for older persons who wish to remain in their own homes despite becoming more frail. The Connecticut Ave. Corridor Study (September 1987) describes these neighborhoods as a stable residential community and identifies factors which have promoted the stability. Among them are: conveniently spaced commercial strips within walking distance of many apartment houses with sufficient population to support efficient transportation; a broad range of consumer goods and services; and above all, the fact that "Connecticut Ave. has been spared the traffic, environmental, and business development problems associated with strip zoning." (p.39)

The stability of the Cleveland Park/Woodley Park population dates in part from the 1930's and 1940's when citizens moved here to support the Roosevelt Administration and later the war effort, and from retired State Department, Congress, and military personnel. To an unusual degree, largely due to the convenience of the neighborhood, this population has aged in place. These older people have made a significant contribution to their neighborhoods and to the city as large. They can often manage to maintain themselves independently. They should not be asked to leave their neighborhoods where they have lived so long, where friends and family can easily visit, where they are familiar with shops and services, and where their churches and synagogues can provide spiritual comfort.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.