

Seymour Weinstein
Cleveland Park Valet
3303 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Lindsley Williams, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
The District Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 11
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Z.C. Case No. 86-26
Connecticut Avenue
(Cleveland Park)


Dear Mr. Williams:

I have operated the Cleveland Park Valet for over twenty years. It is but one of a number of neighborhood-oriented service businesses that will be affected by your decision in Case Number 86-26. I heartily endorse the petition of the Cleveland Park Historical Society and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission requesting that the commercial strip on which my establishment is located be rezoned to limit development. I would also like to see your decision expanded to prohibit PUDs in this neighborhood.

This is a neighborhood shopping area. I would like to see it stay that way. We recently came close to losing our anchor, the grocery store. Fortunately, prompt action by the residents and our elected officials resulted in a new store opening almost as soon as the old one closed. The cause of the closing, however, is still with us, still threatening the stability of our shopping area. That cause is the potential for development, even though this is part of the historic district. As long as owners know they can tear down what is here and replace it with much bigger buildings, there will be a temptation to do so. I understand that. They have a right to try to make as much money as they can.

On the other hand, I feel strongly that the businesses that are already here, and the neighbors who support us, have rights, too. We do not want to see our rents, and the prices we have to charge, driven sky-high by developers. These developers are not interested in our neighborhood and have said so. They want to put up big office buildings. We don't need that. The zoning must be changed if their speculation is to be curbed. We have already experienced the negative effects of that speculation with the grocery store. What we need now is for the developers to understand that they cannot turn our neighborhood into another Van Ness or Ballston. Approval of the petition and elimination of PUDs will go a long way toward ensuring the long-term liveability of this area and its commercial viability for small businesses such as mine. I urge you to act favorably and promptly on this petition.

Sincerely,


Seymour Weinstein

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 86-26
EXHIBIT No. 256

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 86-26
EXHIBIT NO. 256