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ZONING SECRETARIAT,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 25, 1987

Mr. Lindsley Williams, Chairman  
D. C. Zoning Commission  
The District Building, Room 11  
Washington, D. C. 20004

RE: Case No. 86-26

Dear Chairman Williams:

Please bring this letter to the attention of all members of the D. C. Zoning Commission and place it on the record with respect to this case.

Each of us lives in the most important city in this nation, at least from the point of view of every citizen of the United States. Every person has the right to believe that they have two "home towns", the one they live in and the one that affects their lives day in and day out because it is the place where the national government is located. I think that each of us has a responsibility for what this city looks like and acts like, and each of us contributes in some way to the final definition of its internal character.

The question in this case is whether you should permit or restrict commercial development in the Connecticut Avenue corridor in Cleveland Park, particularly near the Cleveland Park Metro station. Some things are worth preserving and some things need to be knocked down for the new and the productive. I walk to and from the Cleveland Park Metro every business day and do much of my shopping and entertaining in the Cleveland Park commercial strip. Those of us who live in the Cleveland Park area, believe that any new construction or rehabilitation of buildings in the commercial area should be strictly controlled in order to preserve and enhance the present character of the neighborhood as essentially a residential one. We believe that it would be a tragic development for us and the future residents to see buildings of the density of the Van Ness area to sprout at the Cleveland Park area.

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Mr. Lindsley Williams

Personally, I am not opposed to any and all change of the neighborhood. I believe that responsible development at a controlled and low density would enhance the quality of the neighborhood. I also believe that someone in authority should require the owner of the Stop and Shop area on the northeast corner of Connecticut and Ordway to administer the property in an appropriate and legal way. It looks and acts like a junk yard now. The owner should be ashamed, and I believe should be required to make it look right.

Local officials are sometimes capable of acting in a foolish manner. Witness the incredible traffic mess in Virginia. I am not a scholar of the reasons why it takes an hour and one-half to go three and one-half miles in your car, but a lesson should be here for you. Whatever is done in the Cleveland Park area as well as other areas of the city should be permitted only under the most strictly defined and enforced parking and traffic flow constraints. Developers should be required to comply with your requirements for these aspects of density, or they should go to the suburbs.

Sincerely,



C. Raymond Marvin  
3114 Quebec Place, N.W.

CRM/jac

cc: The Honorable Marion Barry  
The Honorable James Nathanson, Council Member  
Ms. Kathleen S. Wood, Executive Director  
Cleveland Park Historical Society

ZONING COMMISSION

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