

3701 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Apartment 335  
Washington, D.C. 20004

January 28, 1988

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

Re: Case No.: 86-26

Dear Chairman Williams:

I wish to thank you for the opportunity I had to testify before the Zoning Commission on January 25, 1988, in support of the Cleveland Park Historical Society's rezoning proposal.

Unfortunately, time constraints at the hearing compelled me to curtail my remarks. I therefore wish to present my thoughts more fully in this letter.

As I testified at the hearing, I vigorously support the Cleveland Park Historical Society's rezoning proposal. I do so not only for the reasons enumerated by Tersh Boasberg, President of CPHS, and by Margaret Hare, Chairman of Save Our Supermarket, but also for personal reasons related to the particular fact that I am a wheelchair user.

When I moved to the District of Columbia from Massachusetts four years ago, I specifically sought housing in a residential neighborhood close to wheelchair accessible shopping and to Metro. Cleveland Park satisfies those requirements to an extent I believe unmatched by any other neighborhood in this city.

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ZONING SECRETARIAT,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
Case 86-26  
ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
Exhibit 880  
CASE NO. 86-26  
EXHIBIT NO. 380

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Within a mere two-block radius of my apartment: I can purchase groceries at the supermarket, and beverages at a package store; I can have my clothes dry-cleaned and my shoes repaired; I can buy medical supplies and toiletries at the drug store, books and videos at other stores; I can have my hair cut at the hair salon, my watch repaired at the jewelry store, and my packages mailed at the Post Office. And the list goes on.

I used to be able to get my clothes altered by a tailor located in the Park and Shop Shopping Center and much of the furniture in my apartment was purchased at the antique store that use to be there. Sadly, those businesses are now gone.

I wish to emphasize several salient points about the goods and services that are or have been offered in Cleveland Park. First, the variety of these goods and services is impressive. They cover a broad range of my regular commercial needs.

Second, their proximity and accessibility to me as a wheelchair user is of the utmost importance. This helps to create an environment in which I can be independent and self-sufficient, attributes that I value very highly.

Third, these neighborhood shops also are the setting for casual but not insignificant social interaction with friends and neighbors. This strengthens the fabric of our community and infuses the neighborhood with a friendly and human quality.

Fourth, the fact that the various goods and services are provided in relatively small one-or-two story buildings lends charm, human scale, and distinctiveness to Cleveland Park.

All of these attributes of Cleveland Park which for me make it such a livable and enjoyable place, are now being threatened by the prospect of large-scale development.

The erosion of neighborhood services already has begun. I refer not only to the closing of businesses at the Park and Shop, to which I referred earlier, but also to the more recent closing, for example, of the fish store on Connecticut Avenue that I used to frequent.

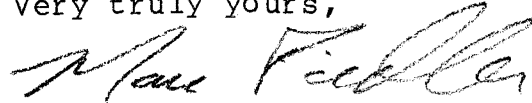
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The departure of these and other neighborhood services ultimately will have a drastic impact on my way of life and on the lives of people similarly situated. It presents us with an untenable Hobson's Choice; either we ourselves seek out elsewhere the services and goods we need with an expenditure of more time, money and effort, or we rely on someone else to obtain these goods and services for us, again at greater expense, not only of dollars but also of our dignity.

I find this prospect abhorrent. Cleveland Park is entirely too valuable a resource for disabled and elderly citizens, as well as for the other residents of our neighborhood, to permit it to be destroyed by the encroachment of large-scale development.

I, therefore, urge the Zoning Commission to preserve the quality of Cleveland Park by approving the rezoning proposal advanced by the Cleveland Park Historical Society.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Fielder".

Marc Fielder

MF/sk