

September 15, 1987

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

Dear Mr. Williams:

You have undoubtedly received several letters like this one on the subject of the proposed closing of the Safeway store at Connecticut Avenue & Ordway Street, N.W.--as well you should. This is a matter of serious concern to all of us in the neighborhood served by that store.

Many of the people who use the store are elderly and cannot easily go long distances to provide for their basic grocery shopping. They (and the rest of us) do not need fancy boutiques carrying frivolous items in that space. Nor do we need yet another office building to provide space for yet more special interest lobbies--as seems to have happened already to a good-sized chunk of that shopping area, bought up--and destroyed--by Oliver T. Carr.

I'm sure I speak for the vast majority of the people in our neighborhood when I say we need immediate, aggressive action on the part of the Zoning Commission to thwart attempts to replace the Safeway in question with anything but a genuine, full-scale supermarket (as opposed to a convenience store, for example, which certainly would not be adequate to the community's needs).

Furthermore, it would almost certainly seem to be in the city's interest to protect that space for a supermarket. Such a store would continue on as a healthy, viable tax-paying entity. Any other type of business that would presume to occupy that space would very probably face a great deal of economic hostility from the neighborhood, not to exclude the possibility of an outright boycott. Such a business would stand an excellent chance of withering on the vine, so to speak, and would, as a result, be of very little value to the city as a taxable entity.

--Continued

SEP 21 PM 1:28  
TOWN SECRETARY  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ZONING COMMISSION

CASE No.

86-26

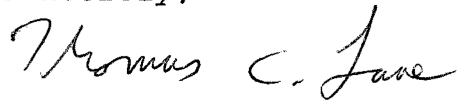
ZONING COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT No. District of Columbia

CASE NO.86-26  
EXHIBIT NO.62

21-9/27/87

I appreciate your taking the time to read this letter. As to a reply, I would far rather your office save the time it would take to fashion one and, instead, invest it in developing a strategy that will save this neighborhood from further degradation in the guise of development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Lane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Thomas C. Lane  
2803 Cortland Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008