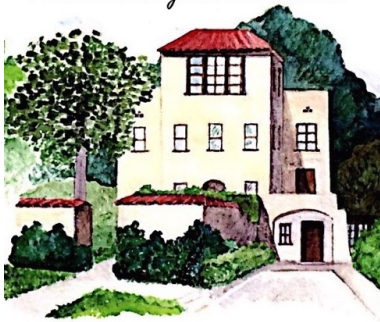


*Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance*



April 23, 2018

District of Columbia Zoning Commission  
441 4th St NW #200  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the joint Forest Hills Citizens Association and Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance, I am writing to express support for the proposed modifications to the PUD at 4250 Connecticut Avenue, NW by the new owner, Bernstein Management. The Citizens Association was a party in the original PUD.

Since Bernstein acquired the property, they've been very active building community relationships, appearing regularly at ANC meetings, presenting plans, seeking feedback and working with the staff and board of Van Ness Main Streets. Given its size and prominent location outside Metro at the center of our commercial district, the building plays an enormous role in setting the tone for the entire neighborhood. That tone right now is stark, unwelcoming and impenetrable. The changes that Bernstein is proposing go a long way to soften, open, and enliven this location.

Of greatest interest to neighborhood residents are the modifications proposed at the street level, including the new building entrance on Connecticut Avenue, new awnings and other improvements designed to attract new retailers, softening the public space with new landscaping, greenery and seating areas. As new small businesses and the farmers' market have opened in Van Ness in recent years, there has been enormous excitement and support for those enterprises and residents are eager for more, particularly around the central hub of Metro. Bernstein has also agreed to explore reopening the Metro drop-off area behind the building, which would be a welcome return service to the community, alleviating what can be a dangerous drop-off situation on Connecticut Avenue.

I believe the best outcome will occur through continued close collaboration between Bernstein Management and Van Ness Main Streets on the details of landscaping, streetscaping and retail recruitment to further our community goals of storm water mitigation to protect Soapstone Creek, enhanced green spaces and gathering spaces, as well as the continued resurgence of our commercial center.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Solomon', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jane Solomon, President  
Forest Hills Citizens Association  
Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.79-19A/78-07  
EXHIBIT NO.1H