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D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: 5401 Western Avenue, N.W.
Zoning Commission Case No. 02-17C

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Dear Commission Members:

I have been the President of the Homeowners Association of the Courts of Chevy Chase (an upscale townhome community of 29 townhomes, located on 43rd Street, immediately adjacent to the proposed development) since its inception, and am very familiar with the Friendship Heights area and the proposed development at 5401 Western Avenue. I am and have been involved in numerous neighborhood affairs, including drafting and circulating petitions to reduce traffic, service improvements on 43rd Street in coordination with the then-D.C. Neighborhood Services Coordinator Phil Heinrich and ANC Commissioner Jill Diskan, negotiations with D.C. Traffic Services, and negotiations with the developer regarding this proposed development.

As an active member of the Friendship Heights community, I would like to express my support for the proposed development. I am familiar with the proposed development, and based on the most recent changes, I support the development for the following reasons:

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 02-17
Exhibit 117

- The dimensions of the proposed development have been reduced in response to demands from concerned citizens. At this point, I consider the size of the development acceptable.
- The development leaves a substantial portion of the lot as “green space.” In comparison, in my opinion, if townhomes were to be built on that lot, a larger portion of this “green space” would be lost.
- Currently, a very large part of the site of the proposed development is simply a parking lot. I believe that the proposed development would actually add “green space” where there is currently pavement.
- Traffic in the Friendship Heights area has increased dramatically in the past few years to a degree where it is more than just a nuisance. In fact, I am concerned for the safety of my and other neighborhood children. My numerous attempts to negotiate with D.C. Traffic Service have been unfruitful, and therefore I consider the proposed traffic calming measures that are part of the proposed development an important contribution to the neighborhood.
- I am satisfied that the developer has made efforts to respond to community demands. In fact, I called Mr. Doug Firstenberg last week to ensure that the developer has a “tree management” plan in place to ensure that as many mature trees as possible will be saved and protected during construction. In response to my request, Mr. Firstenberg also agreed to transfer trees and other plants as much as possible to other locations instead of just cutting them down. There are several trees at or near the site (of which I planted three myself) that can be transferred to nearby locations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Meier", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Meier