

7/16/18 Testimony of Barbara Kahlow
on Zoning Commission Case No. 06-11P
Modification of Significance to ZC Order No. 06-11L for Hillel (2300 H St., Square 42)

I, Barbara Kahlow, live at 800 25th Street, N.W., which is less than two blocks from 2300 H Street. I am testifying on behalf of the West End Citizens Association (WECA), the oldest citizens organization in the Foggy Bottom-West End area. One of the WECA's goals is maintaining the quality of life for the residential community in Foggy Bottom-West End.

On May 31, 2018, the WECA requested "Party" status **in support** for this Modification of Significance to ZC Order No. 06-11L case for which the WECA was a "Party" and for which the WECA testified **in opposition** on June 23, 2014. After issuance of the 2016 ZC Order No. 06-11L, the WECA jointly with St. Mary's Episcopal Church (the Church) which abuts the current Hillel building filed an Appeal (No. 16AA-491) in the DC Court of Appeals.

As indicated in our request for "Party" status, the WECA is pleased with Hillel's agreement to: (a) downsize to an approximately 20 percent smaller replacement building and one which meets matter-of-right lot occupancy and rear yard, and (b) replace the 1-sided 4-page Construction Management Plan (CMP) with a fully protective co-signed (with the Church) Construction Management Agreement (CMA). The WECA led the successful negotiations, especially regarding the CMA.

The downsized building will better protect the foundation and structure of the landmarked Church buildings as well as the air and light to all three Church buildings, especially the Rectory and the Parish Hall.

In the WECA's 2014 testimony in opposition to the several requested variances, the WECA also discussed some potential adverse effects on the Foggy Bottom residential community. For example, the WECA stated, "there could be adverse effects on pedestrian safety (e.g., from the loading activities across the heavily travelled sidewalk) and already limited on-street residential parking" and "the bus stop will probably have to be removed since there will be a sidewalk closure on H St as well." Today, the WECA wants to again request that the heavily-used bus stop at H and 23rd Streets be returned to use after construction of the new Hillel building.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.