

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS

The District of Columbia Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

September 11, 2012

Dear Chairman Hood,

Adams Morgan is a wonderful community with a long history of Latinos and other immigrant families forging the vitality and culture which has made it one of D.C.'s most diverse and unique neighborhoods.

On September 10, 2012, many Latino residents living and working on Champlain Street and Columbia Road in close proximity to the proffered hotel site personally highlighted their discomfort at a meeting with me at the OLA office. Families and businesses impacted by this hotel idea emotionally noted apprehension about the possible two or more years of disruptive construction that will tie up an already busy Champlain Street, Euclid Street, Columbia Road cross-intersection. They are worried about the parking situation.

They note uneasiness about how a hotel sitting on two narrow residential streets within sight of two elementary schools can be considered good for the community's well being and pedestrian safety for children and the elderly. They fear the noise, pollution, waste, and traffic dangers that operation of a hotel would bring on a daily basis. And, they recognize that a hotel of this caliber will tend to make everything more expensive, including rents and retail goods, putting pressure on them as they get closer to being priced out of the neighborhood that some of them have lived in for three decades.

I spoke to Matt Wexler, the applicant, today to discuss a possible meeting with the individuals that came to the Office on Latino Affairs and he has agreed to meet with them. He indicated that he will address any issue that they may have. I know that meetings have occurred with some members of the Latino community and that an MOU with the Greater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce exists.

While not able to take an official position about the project, OLA would recommend the applicant spearhead a convening meeting with the tenant, renters in the area to assist with possible Coop opportunities and other issues concerning the hotel especially in their language, Spanish.

OLA believes investments and new projects should not come at the cost of dismissing the voices of Latino families and those of other immigrants, for it is these families who helped build this neighborhood into what it is today.

Thank you,

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 11-17

ZONING COMMISSION
EXHIBIT NO. 129

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**Roxana Olivas, Director
Office of Latino Affairs**