

REAL ESTATE, HOUSING AND LAND USE SECTION

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The District of Columbia Bar

Committees:

Commercial Real Estate
Rental Housing
Residential Real Estate
Zoning and Land Use

November 21, 1988

Ms. Lynne Lester
Manager, Sections Office
District of Columbia Bar
1707 L Street, N.W.
Sixth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036-4202

Dear Lynne:

Enclosed is a draft letter that the Zoning and Land Use Committee desires to send to Councilmember John Ray. We would appreciate it if you would circulate it to the Board of Governors and Section Chairpersons for review pursuant to the Section Guidelines governing public statements. Under the circumstances, we think that expedited consideration is appropriate.

Please call me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael A. Cain
Chair
Zoning and Land Use Committee

MAC:yh
Enclosure
cc: Donald P. Tuttle, Esq.

November 17, 1988

DRAFT

The Honorable John Ray
Chairman
Committee on Consumer and
Regulatory Affairs
Council of the District
of Columbia
Room _____
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Ray:

This letter is directed to you on behalf of the Zoning and Land Use Committee of the D.C. Bar's Section on Real Estate, Housing and Land Use. It has come to our attention that a serious staff shortage has developed in the Office of the D.C. Zoning Administrator. Apparently there are only two technicians available to review all building permit, certificate of occupancy and other applications which require zoning review and approval. Unless remedied soon, this situation will noticeably lengthen the time required for such reviews. Applicants requiring formal referrals from the Zoning Administrator to the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment for variances and special exceptions will face additional, often very costly delays. We are also concerned that

Mandatory Disclaimer

The views expressed herein represent only those of the members of the Zoning and Land Use Committee of the Section of Real Estate, Housing and Land Use of the District of Columbia Bar and are not those of the D.C. Bar or its Board of Governors.

the pressure of an increased volume of highly technical matters to be reviewed by fewer personnel may lead to mistakes which, when detected, could result in great expense to homeowners, business people and developers alike.

In view of your recent oversight hearings concerning the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the Committee felt it was imperative to bring this situation to your attention in the hope that a prompt and effective solution can be found as quickly as possible. Any significant slowdown of the permit review and approval process is a matter of great concern for all District residents and for a great many people who do business in the City. Any action that you may be able to take to help bring about a solution to this serious problem would be very much in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely

Michael A. Cain
Chair
Zoning and Land Use Committee