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February 17, 2001

The Honorable Kerry Donley, Mayor of Alexandria, and members of Council
City Hall, 401 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Kerry
Dear Kerry and Members of Council:

This regards City Council's appointments to the three open seats on the City's Planning Commission. At the Seminary Hill Association Board of Directors meeting of February 8, 2001, the following persons were endorsed for appointment by Council to this most important Commission.

Donna Fossum: We urge reappointment of Donna given her vast experience on Planning Commission, her performance as Vice Chair and the thoroughness by which she approaches complex issues. We have always found her eminently fair in dealing with and hearing citizen concerns.

Ludwig Gaines: Although Ludwig is relatively new to Alexandria, we have been much impressed with his commitment to the community, his ability to learn, the thoroughness of his analysis, and his articulation of complex issues. We have been privileged to work with Ludwig "close up" in regard to the Burke Library controversy and have been impressed with his work on behalf of the Freeman's Cemetery.

Frank Putzu: The SHA board endorsed Frank, a member of our Board of Directors, in his bid to obtain a position on Planning Commission. Frank, as you well know, has done an extraordinary job on behalf of his neighborhood and the larger community particularly in regard to the Group Home issue and Burke Library. However we have just been informed that Frank is now withdrawing his application for Planning Commission and will seek appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Again SHA supports Frank in his efforts to be appointed to the BZA. His familiarity with issues in the West End, his skill as a lawyer and as one who can find a creative solution to seemingly intractable issues, and his proven willingness to do the necessary homework underscores his ability to perform well on the BZA.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 703-370-3089.

Sincerely,

William C. Dickinson
William C. Dickinson
President, Seminary Hill Association

