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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

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D.C. Office of Planning

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Mr. Steve Callcott  
D.C. Historic Preservation Office

Mr. Charles H. Ellis, III  
Dupont Circle Citizens Association

Mr. Thomas Bower  
Mr. Lance Salonia  
Dupont Circle Conservancy

**Re: Embassy of The Republic of the Congo  
BZA Application No. 18162**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

His Excellency, Ambassador Serge Mombouli, has asked me to convey his personal appreciation for your patience and participation in this important matter for the Republic of the Congo. After the hearing, the Ambassador has decided to withdraw the request for a curb cut and one-way driveway from Riggs Place. As soon as it is available, we will submit a revised Site Plan and Elevations showing the elimination of the curb cut and driveway.

Additionally, please accept the following comments from Ambassador Mombouli:

1. The Embassy of the Republic of the Congo is committed to restoring and maintaining the interior and exterior of the historic Property and adapting it to productive use as a Chancery. Although originally constructed as a single-family residence for a Supreme Court Justice, this residential use has long since been abandoned. From 1921 to 1923, the Persian



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Legation (Chancery) occupied the Property. Later it was the Toutorsky Academy of Music and most recently an unsuccessful Bed and Breakfast. As a result of unstable ownership and under utilization, the interior and exterior of the Property has suffered from lack of maintenance. Given the Property's mixed use history and the neighborhood's current mix of residential, institutional, religious, commercial and diplomatic uses, the low intensity single occupant nature of the proposed chancery will be a good and compatible neighbor.

2. The Secretary of State has supported this Chancery application as in the best interests and obligations of the United States in facilitating the diplomatic mission of the Republic of the Congo in this country and the reciprocal assistance and generosity that the United States has been afforded in the Republic of the Congo, including the new U.S. Embassy facility in Brazzaville.

3. As was discussed at the hearing, time is of the essence in the completion of this Chancery application in order to meet the short sale agreement deadline with the Bank of America. The President and CEO of the America, personally, has gone to great lengths on behalf of the Republic of the Congo to facilitate and expedite this short sale transaction. The inability to timely complete this transaction with the Bank of America would be an embarrassment to the government of the Republic of the Congo.

Finally, Ambassador Mombouli respectfully requests support for an approval of his government's Chancery application, as amended, at the March 8, 2011 hearing.

Very truly yours,

GREENSTEIN DELORME & LUCHS, P.C.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Patrick Brown, Jr.

JPB:prm

cc: The Honorable Clifton C. Seagroves, U.S. State Department