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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF ADJUDICATION
941 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, SUITE #9100
P.O. Box 37140
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-7200

In the Matter of:

Applications for Permits to Demolish or
Partially Raze buildings located at
921 through 935 F Street
Washington, D.C.

HPA 99-35; 99-219; 99-220
99-221; 99-222; 99-224
99-225; 99-226; & 99-285

ORDER
(Denying a Request for a Continuance)

At 2:06 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 1999, The Committee of 100 on the Federal City (the Committee) filed a letter with the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation, requesting that the above-noted consolidated cases, set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 1999, "to be postponed for four weeks, until June 29, 1999, in order to allow time for the Committee to effectively participate in the proceeding." (Committee's letter)

The Committee further asserted that a postponement was necessary also in part due to the complexity of certain of the issues that were raised by the application, which necessitated that the Committee assemble potential witnesses to testify in opposition to the application, but who were not available on May 25th. The Committee listed no names of who these allegedly key witnesses were, and made no proffers regarding what their anticipated testimony would be, or why said anticipated testimony was crucial to the outcome of this Application.

Instead, the Committee attacked the sufficiency of the Applicant's application, on several grounds, and alleged that it was vague in several critical respects, i.e., on the issue of the nature and type of project that could qualify for consideration as one of "special merit"; on the details of the proposed renovation and retention of existing space in the St. Patrick's Academy Building; why the demolition of the present seven contributing historic commercial properties on F Street was necessary; whether the Applicant possesses the necessary financial resources to effectuate the desired result, if ultimately approved; or an enumeration of what administrative, social programs, or direct benefit services would result to the Applicant by unifying Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington from its currently scattered operation into one central location.

The Mayor's Agent, having given full consideration to this belated request for a postponement of this scheduled hearing, will deny the request, and directs that the hearing will convene as scheduled. Despite any potential inconvenience to the Committee and any witnesses or evidence it wishes to present in opposition to this Application, the record herein reflects that more than 30 days ago, a public notice was published in the *D.C. Register* and the *Washington Times* newspaper, which advertised the date upon which the Applicant would present its case to the Mayor's Agent. The notice was published well in advance to accommodate all parties and potential witnesses, in the event that schedules had to be adjusted in order to participate in this public hearing.

Several individuals, in addition to the Applicant, have filed a submission, or requested to be heard during the hearing, or both. To suddenly postpone the hearing on such short notice, when the Committee was already well aware of

when the hearing would be conducted, is not a sufficient cause to justify the major disruption that would occur in the process, by postponing this matter until June 29, 1999.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, and based upon the foregoing, it is this **24th day of May, 1999,**

ORDERED that the Committee's request for a postponement to June 29, 1999, is **DENIED**, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Mayor's Agent hearing in this matter, shall go forward, as initially scheduled, at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 1999, at 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite #9100, Washington, D.C.



Rohulamin Quander
Administrative Law Judge, D.C.
Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation

Copies to:

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Committee of 100 on
The Federal City

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And

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DCRA/ Historic Preservation Division

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