

4911 Ashby Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

April 15, 2004

Ms. Barbara A. Moore
President
Women's Committee/NSO
The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
Washington, DC 20566

Dear Ms. Moore:

As Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the Single Member District in which your proposed 2004 Decorator Show House is located, I feel it important to inform you that I have received some very concerned phone calls and letters from constituents regarding your choice for this event.

Mr. Logan has been neither a good nor compliant neighbor. His construction has required constant vigilance as there is little supervision on site by Mr. Logan or his agent. Several hearings have taken place before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) regarding the construction of the house and the destruction of trees. There is currently an appeal pending before the BZA because Mr. Logan failed to abide by the Chain Bridge Road/University Terrace Overlay District. The ruling by the BZA may necessitate a future filing with the DC Court of Appeals.

Chain Bridge Road is approximately 22 feet wide in front of Mr. Logan's property and the neighbors have contended with construction vehicles and dumpsters being parked in front of their homes for almost two years. In like manner, the National Symphony Show House is not an event that goes without considerable disruption and impact on its surroundings. The event is neither quiet nor does it end in one day or one weekend. The planned twenty-nine day run will also have impact on the entire surrounding community. The Logan house is a behemoth, the lot is overbuilt, threatens Battery Kemble Park below and casts a dark shadow over all of its adjacent neighbors. It does not possess the graciousness or spacious settings of many past NSO Show Houses. The maneuvering room required for both interior and landscape activities involved in the evolution and creation of a show house do not exist. Mr. Logan's property provides insufficient room on either side of the house for the needs of any decorator or caterer to move items easily on or off the premises. The added hardship on residents by the crews selected to transform the show house can hardly be mitigated by two free tickets. It is an extreme inconvenience the Women's Committee is inflicting on a neighborhood that is already involved in a hostile exchange with Mr. Logan.

I also have serious concerns regarding any traffic/parking plan that has been developed for the site and ask that you forward a copy of it to me at your earliest convenience. As I noted previously, Chain Bridge Road is very narrow and raises concern on two fronts. There is not sufficient room to permit parking for vehicles connected with decorating and landscaping and the road is not suitable for a series of shuttle buses running along it during the show house. Further, what accommodations have been made for parking?

While neighbors happily support fundraising efforts on behalf of the National Symphony Orchestra, further implementation of current plans for 2004 may be ill advised, and it is certain the Women's Committee will not be the recipients of positive press that previous show houses have enjoyed. Pending court action may well prevent the use of Mr. Logan's property in the end. The article in the Post yesterday only showed an illustration of the house because of its current condition which may be the same condition facing the Women's Committee in October.

I write to implore you to take the concerns of the residents of Chain Bridge Road as well as the Single Member Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for this district under consideration and make immediate arrangements to find another location for the 2004 Show House that will bring the National Symphony Orchestra the positive publicity and proceeds it truly deserves.

Sincerely,

Alma H. Gates
ANC 3D05

cc: Bonnie Curry Brose
Leonard Slatkin