MCPB Item No. ____ March 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

February 20, 20087

TO:

Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA:

Larry Cole, Highway Coordinator / C

Transportation Planning

FROM:

Ed Axler, Planner/Coordinator (301) 495-4525

EA

Transportation Planning

SUBJECT:

Abandonment Case: AB 702 – Portion of Reed Street Miller's Second Addition to Bethesda Subdivision Bethesda Central Business District Policy Area

This memorandum reflects staff's review of a request for Planning Board comments on the proposed abandonment of a portion of Reed Street. The abandonment request is associated with the Project Review Plan No. 920070070 and Preliminary Plan No. 120070200 for the Woodmont East, Phase II development on the east side of Woodmont Avenue between Bethesda Avenue and Elm Street in downtown Bethesda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Planning Board **support approval** of the proposed abandonment with the following conditions:

- 1. The recommended reservations and public use easements for the necessary rights-of-way to accommodate the Purple Line and Georgetown Branch Trail must be as outlined in the Transportation Planning memorandum for Woodmont East, Phase II, Project Review Plan No. 920070070 and Preliminary Plan No. 120070200 dated February 20, 2008.
- 2. The proposed abandonment must be shown on the subsequent site plan and take effect at recordation of a plat pursuant to Chapter 50 of the County Code to incorporate the rights-of-way into the proposed redeveloped property associated with the Project Review Plan No. 920070070 and Preliminary Plan No. 120070200.

DISCUSSION

The proposed abandonment was referred by the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) for comment per Section 49-62 of the Montgomery County Code. The County's public hearing occurred on January 28, 2008, and the record will remain open until March 28, 2008, to receive the Planning Board's recommendation. Attachment No. 1 includes DPWT memorandum describing the Abandonment Case AB702. Abandonment Case AB 702 is to abandon approximately 8,308 square feet of public right-of-way of the existing 50-foot-wide between Bethesda Avenue and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad right-of-way.

The right-of-way proposed to be abandoned is entirely within the Miller's Second Addition to Bethesda subdivision. Concurrent with this abandonment request, the Planning Board will review Project Plan No. 920070070 and Preliminary Plan No. 120070200 for the Woodmont East, Phase II development. The applicant proposes to redevelop the site of to build 250 high-rise apartments, a 250-room hotel, and 11,550 square feet of retail space.

The area proposed to be abandoned contains no wetlands, vegetation, or trees and, therefore, the forest conservation law does not apply. Likewise, the Planning Department's Historic Preservation Section has no historic preservation concerns about this abandonment.

According to the Applicant's civil engineer, known utility lines within the Reed Street right-of-way to be abandoned include: a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) waterline, a Washington Gas Light (WGL) natural gas pipeline, a WSSC sanitary sewer, one Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) utility pole and one electric vault. To their best estimation, the waterline, natural gas pipeline and sanitary sewer are service connections, which serve only the building to be removed as part of the Woodmont East- Phase II project. The utility pole and the electric vault will be relocated as part of the Woodmont East- Phase II project. Comments from the on the abandonment petitions are to be solicited by DPWT independent from the Planning Board comments.

Connectivity

The Reed Street right-of-way included in Abandonment Cases AB 702 is currently a paved surface that is not used for vehicular access to and from any other adjoining properties. Besides serving as access to the adjacent buildings, pedestrian and bicyclists currently use this right-of-way to access the Interim Georgetown Branch Trail via the entrance to the former Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355).

In connection with the development of the property pursuant to the project plan and preliminary plan, the Applicant will grant the County a 22-foot-wide perpetual easement over the former railroad right-of-way. The interim Georgetown Branch Trail will be partially located within this right-of-way, providing pedestrians and bicyclists a

direct connection from Woodmont Avenue to the tunnel. This connection will eliminate any need for Reed Street to provide this connection.

The public has not sent any letters since the public hearing for Preliminary Plan No. 120070200 held on November 8, 2007, in support of keeping the tunnel open and accessible from the west side during construction in addition to the provision for perpetual access after construction. The applicant has agreed to maintain public access to the tunnel.

The pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained, including during construction, with public access easements and reservations for future easements to be required as conditions of approval of the concurrent project plan and preliminary plan with final details specified at a future site plan review.

In conclusion, we find that with the conditions described above, the public right-of-way proposed for abandonment will not adversely impact present or future circulation patterns by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

EA:tc Attachments

Cc: Neil Braunstein
Michael Cassedy
Steve Crum
Judy Daniel
Pat Harris
Joshua Sloan

mmo to MCPB AB702.doc

Holland*Knight

Tel 301 654 7800 Fax 301 656 3978 Holland & Knight LLP 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 800 Bethesda, MD 20814-6337

AB 702

Patricia A. Harris 301 215 6613 pharris@hklaw.com

www.hklaw.com

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April 23, 2007

VIA UPS

The Honorable Isiah Leggett County Executive, Montgomery County Office of the County Executive Executive Office Building Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Petition for Street Abandonment -- Reed Street

Dear County Executive Leggett:

On behalf of Street Retail, Inc. (an affiliate of Federal Realty Investment Trust), JBG Companies, Frederick S. Burke and Carter S. Kaufmann (collectively, the "Petitioners"), we hereby request the abandonment of Reed Street pursuant to Sections 49-62 et. seq. of the Montgomery County Code. The abandoned Street will revert to the abutting lots and parcels.¹

Reed Street was established by Plat No. 414, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit "A"</u>. Although this plat depicts Reed Street as a 402-foot right-of-way that connects Elm Street to Bethesda Avenue, the construction of Woodmont Avenue eliminated the need for such a connection. Accordingly, the northern segment of the right-of-way was abandoned to accommodate development along Elm Street, as the Tax Map attached as <u>Exhibit "B"</u> indicates. The portion of Reed Street that exists today -- described on the attached survey (<u>Exhibit "C"</u>) -- is effectively a stub street with an area of approximately 8,308 square feet that does not provide access to any parcels not already accessible from either Bethesda Avenue or Woodmont Avenue.

Reed Street neither intersects with Bethesda Avenue at a shared grade, nor provides a curb-cut to Bethesda Avenue. In considering the abandonment request, we bring your attention to the County's easement interest across Lot Pt. 142 pursuant to the Declaration of Easement recorded in the Land Records of Montgomery County at Liber 7443, Folio 663 (Exhibit "D"). This Declaration of Easement provided the County with an easement in order that the County

¹ Street Retail, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Federal Realty Investment Trust, currently owns the properties known as Lots N625 and Part of Lot 142. JBG/Woodmont LLC (an affiliate of the JBG Companies) is the current ground-lessee of Lot P93. In connection with the development of Woodmont East, JBG/Woodmont LLC is negotiating the potential acquisition of P93 from the current owners and ground-lessors, Frederick S. Burke and Carter S. Kaufmann.

could provide an access road to Reed Street. As provided in paragraph six of this Declaration, the County covenants that it will not oppose the abandonment of Reed Street in the event that all adjoining property owners petition for its abandonment, provided that no current or anticipated public uses exist for the Reed Street right-of-way. Reed Street is not currently being used for public use and nor are there any Master Planned or otherwise anticipated public uses for Reed Street. Instead, other significant areas within the proposed Woodmont East development, including the proposed plaza area, are to be devoted to public use space, including the Capital Crescent Trail and an accommodation for the future Purple Line.

The subject abandonment is proposed in connection with the development of Woodmont East (Lots Pt. 93, P142, N617, N618, and N625). Woodmont East is a smart-growth infill mixed-use project that proposes between 230-250 residential units, including 12.5 percent MPDUs; a 225-room hotel; 4,350 square feet of new street-level retail space; and approximately 250 private parking spaces in a three-level underground garage. Woodmont East is designed to accommodate both the potential future Purple Line and the Crescent Trail and also contributes to Bethesda's network of pathways and open spaces in furtherance of the public interest.

We look forward to discussing the abandonment request in greater detail at the public hearing. We have enclosed the \$2,500 filing fee for the abandonment as well as a list of the property owners abutting the Street. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Patricia A. Harris

Enclosures

cc (w/encls.): Mr. Michael Cassedy (w/filing fee check)

Ms. Chorman Romano Mr. John Tschiderer

#3831626 v2

EXHIBIT "A"

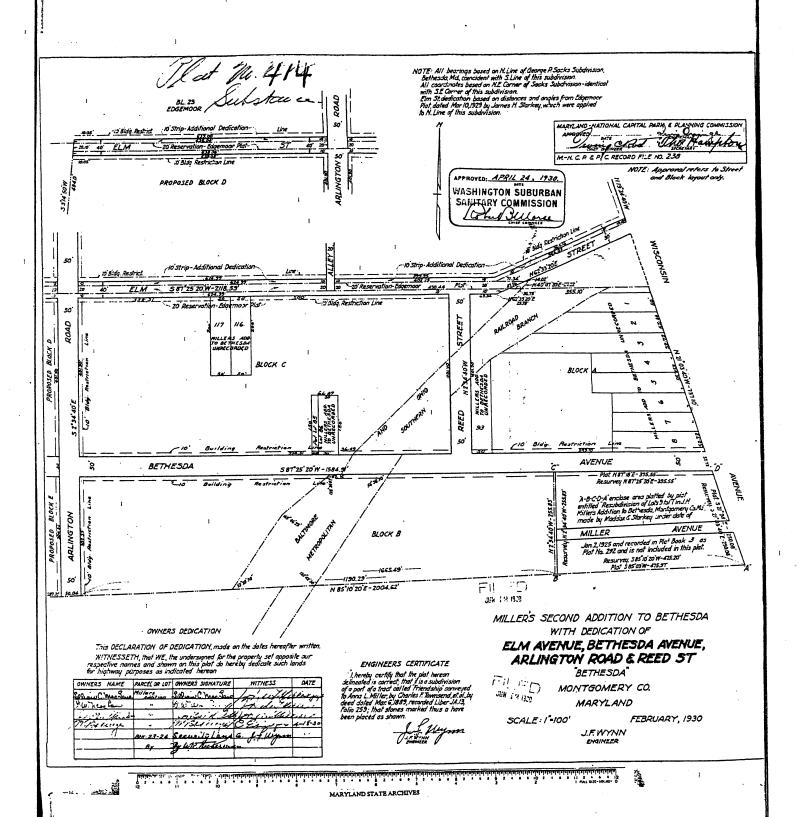


EXHIBIT "B"

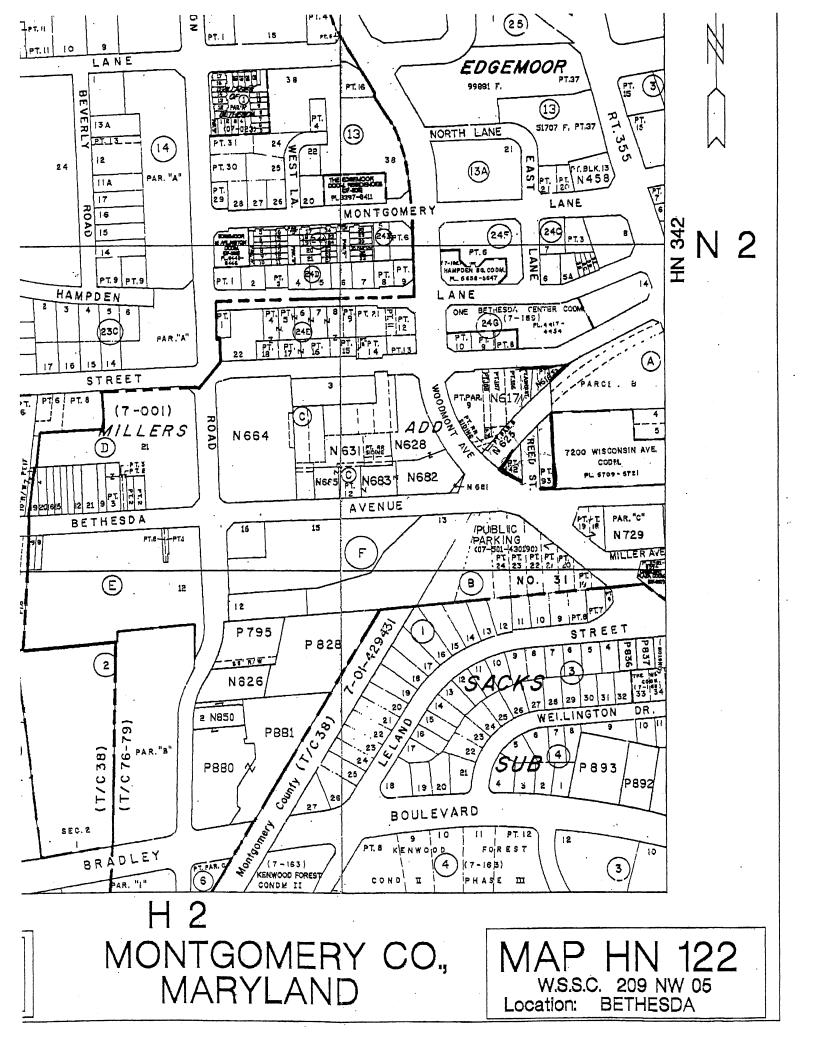




EXHIBIT "A" PROPOSED STREET ABANDONMENT REED STREET BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Being a strip or parcel of land located in the Seventh (7th) Election District of Montgomery County, Maryland and being part of Reed Street as delineated on a Plat of Dedication entitled "Miller's Second Addition To Bethesda With Dedication of Elm Avenue, Bethesda Avenue, Arlington Road and Reed Street." as recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland as Plat No. 414 and being more particularly described in the W.M.A.T.A. Datum by Macris, Hendricks, & Glascock, P.A. as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northeasterly right-of-way limits of Woodmont Avenue (80' R/W – R/W Plat 103), said point also being at the end of the third (3rd) line as described in a conveyance from Michele J. Jaffe et al to Street Retail, Inc., by deed dated October 29, 2000 and recorded among the aforesaid Land Records in Liber 15806 at Folio 658, then binding reversely with said line and also with the westerly limits of said Reed Street (50' R/W)

- 1. North 02°34'33" West, 130.39 feet to a point, said point being on the fourth (4th) line (Parcel 1) as described in a conveyance from Mate, L.L.C. to Street Retail, Inc. by Special Warranty Deed dated May 29, 1998 and recorded among the aforesaid Land Records in Liber 15895 at Folio 356, then binding reversely with said line
- 70.21 feet along the arc of a curve deflecting to the right, having a radius
 of 1399.50 feet and a chord bearing and length of North

42°50'38" East, 70.20 feet to a point, said point being the northwest rear corner of Lot 93 as delineated on Plat Book B, Plat 37 then binding with the westerly limits of said Lot 93 and the easterly limits of Reed Street (50'R/W)

- 3. South 02°34'33" East, 192.17 feet to a point, said point being on the northerly right-of-way limits of Bethesda Avenue

 (60'R/W), then binding with said right-of-way limits of Bethesda Avenue and Woodmont Avenue
- 4. South 87°25'29" West, 35.82 feet to a point, then
- 5. North 51°10'52" West, 18.91 feet to the point of beginning; containing 8,308 square feet or 0.19073 of an acre of land.

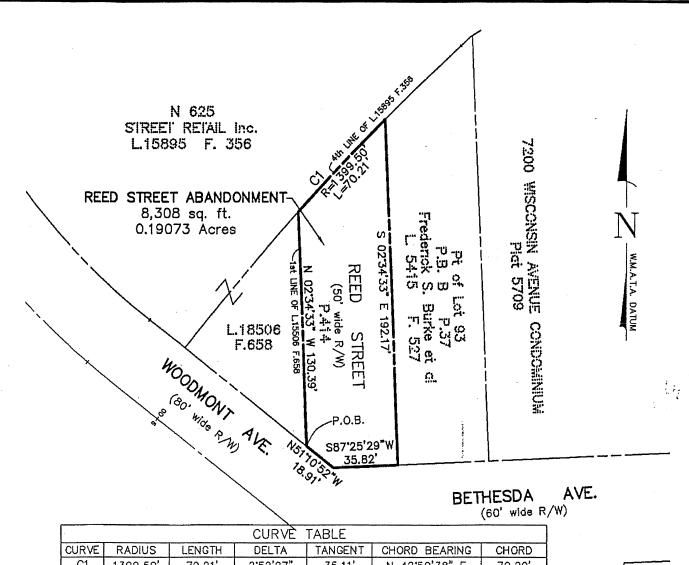
Certified correct to the best of my professional knowledge, information and belief and this description was prepared by me and is in conformance with Title 9, Subtitle 13, Chapter 6, Section .12 of the Minimum Standards of Practice for Land Surveyors. If the seal and signature are not violet colored, the document is a copy that should be assumed to contain unauthorized alterations. The certification contained on this document shall not apply to any copies.

Macris, Hendricks & Glascock, P.A.
Douglass H. Riggs, III, Professional Land Surveyor

Maryland Registration No. 10712

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93-399/EA010DHR



CURVE TABLE							
CURVE	RADIUS	LENGTH	DELTA	TANGENT	CHORD BEARING	CHORD	
C1	1399.50'	70.21'	2'52'27"	35.11'	N 42'50'38" E	70.20'	

EXHIBIT 'B'

Proposed Abandonment Reed Street

Bethesda, Maryland

Scale: 1"=50' August, 2006 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Macris, Hendricks & Glascock, P.A. Engineers • Planners Landscape Architects • Surveyors

9220 Wighlman Road, Suite 120 Montgomery Villaga, Maryland 20886-1279

Phone 301.670.0840 Fax 301.948.0693 www.mhgpa.com

(EP_45_01) 1993.399.45



LIBER 7 4 4 3 FOLIO 6 6 3

DECLARATION OF EASEMENT

THIS DECLARATION, made this Stiday of December , 1986, by LAWRENCE J. JAFFE and JOHN M. JAFFE (hereinafter sometimes called the "JAFFES"), parties of the first part and MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND (hereinafter sometimes called the "COUNTY"), party of the second part.

WHEREAS, the JAFFES are the owners of a parcel of land designated as Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 on a certain Right of way Plat File Number 103, recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY desires use of a portion of said land, said portion being designated as Area 4 (sometimes referred to herein as the "Easement Area") on the aforestated plat, as a perpetual easement with the right of ingress and egress; and

WHEREAS, the parties for the within instrument for themselves, their heirs, personal representatives, and successors and assigns, do by the execution of the within instrument, establish and define the right of ingress and egress over a certain parcel of land designated as Area 4 on a Right of Way Plat File Number 103, recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, containing 1,428 square feet, (sometimes referred to herein as the "Fasement Area") and do further, by the execution of the within instrument, establish covenants for the use of said easement and for the maintenance of the same.

NOW THEREFORE, THIS DECLARATION WITNESSETH: That the said Lawrence J. Jaffe and John M. Jaffe; do hereby establish a perpetual easement for ingress and egress over and across the Easement Area for the use and benefit of Montgomery County, Maryland.

1. The parties to the within instrument do hereby establish and impose upon the aforesaid Area 4, covenants which shall run with, and be binding on, said parcel, observed and enforced by the parties to the within

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instrument, their heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, and all parties deriving title from the said parties herein.

- 2. The Jaffes, their successors and/or assigns will never erect nor permit to be erected a building or structure of any nature whatsoever, nor fill nor excavate within said Easement Area, without the County's written consent.
- 3. The County, its successors and assigns, shall at all times have a right to enter said Easement Area for the purpose of installing, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, repairing, operating and inspecting an access road to Reed Street within said Easement and Right of Way.
- 4. That the County, its successors and assigns, shall not widen the Easement Area in excess of 25.33 feet wide under this project, as the Easement is being granted for the sole purpose of access between the new Woodmont Avenue and Reed Street.
- 5: In the event that the properties adjacent to Reed Street are developed, whereby the Easement Area is not necessary for access to the new Woodmont Avenue, and in the event that the Jaffes desire to extinguish the perpetual easement, the Jaffes shall pay the sum of \$14,590.00 to the County, whereby the County will execute the necessary documentation in order to extinguish the same.
- 6. In the event that all of the adjoining property owners petition to abandon Reed Street and the County determines that there is no current or anticipated public use for Reed Street, the County will not oppose the abandonment of Reed Street.
- 7. The County agrees to maintain the road service of the Easement Area; to keep the roadway free of snow and debris; and to see that areas of brush are maintained in conformity with the requirements set forth in the Montgomery County Code.

LAW CENGCO WARD & PLEIN GATHEADEURL NO LENS CACH IBLOTTS

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8. It shall be the sole responsibility of the county to install the paying in the Easement Area and the County shall hold the Jaffes harmless and indemnify the Jaffes for any costs, expenses, liability or damages resulting from the installation of said paying.

9. Insurance for the Easement Area shall be

maintained by the County, its successors and assigns.

10. Covenants of the within instrument shall be perpetual unless changed in whole or in part by unanimous. consent of the parties to this Agreement.

11. This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, there Personal Representatives, Successors and Assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals on the day and year first above written.

WITNESS:

Anne Shapiro

WITNESS:

Anne Shapiro

JOHN M. JAFFE //

STATE OF MARYLAND COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

, to wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 5 day of Likelike, 1986, before the undersigned officer, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared LAWRENCE J. JAFFE, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to in the within instrument, and did acknowledge the foregoing instrument to be his act and deed, for the purpose therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Heralu

My Commission Expires:

ELIZASETH A. PARSONS - MUTARY FUBLIC No Community Elizans Live 31, 1987

LAW OFFICES
WIAST & KLEIN
DAINGMUNG NO 2087

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

My Commission Expires:

CANCTO A PAGNORS (NOTAT) POLICE

CONSENT

The undersigned trustees, pursuant to a certain Deed of Trust on behalf of Lawrence J. Jaffe and John M. Jaffe recorded the 28th day of January, 1981, in Liber 5650 at folio 803 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, consent to the foregoing Easement and agree that their interest in the property shall be subordinate and subject thereto.

Dated this Siday of December, 1986

Antonio C. DeVera, Trustee

STATE OF MARYLAUD COUNTY OF MONTE OMERY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the day of DECEMBER.

1980, before the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the above jurisdiction, personally appeared Paul S. Harab and Antonio C. Devera, and who have been subscribed to this written instrument, who acknowledged themselves to be trustees on behalf of Lawrence J. Jaffe and John M. Jaffe, the aforesald beed of Trust and that said Paul S. Harab and the aforesaid Deed of Trust and that said Paul S. Harab and Antonio C. DeVera, as such trustees, being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing as such trustees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and Notarial

Christina J. Lithour Notary Public Christina J. Stroud

My Commission Expires: 7 1-90

ward a klen HERMBURS, ME 2023

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GRANTORS' ADDRESS: Lawrence J. Jaffe 5116 Moreland Drive Bechesda, Maryland 20814

John M. Jaffe

GRANTEE'S ADDRESS: Montgomery County, Maryland
Montgomery County Office Building
Rockville, Maryland

NO TITLE INSURANCE CARRIER/NO TITLE INSURANCE

Parcel Indentification No.: 7-1-429373

WARD & KLEIN

LDER 7 4 4 3 FOLM 6 6 8

Montgomery County, Maryland

Executive Office Building -101 Monrue Street

Knckpille, Margland, 20850

December 1, 1986

- Ho Howard M. Smith, Clerk Ci Circuit Court for Nontgomery C County, Maryland Co Courthouse Ro Rockville, Maryland 20850
- De Dear Mr. Smith:
- Please record the attached document on behalf of Montgomery County, Maryland, and waive the usual recording fee:

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

PAUL A. McGUCKIAN COUNTY ATTORNEY

Sinch S Sect Linda D. Berk Associate County Attorney

PAM:LDB:sg

Attachment



MONTGOMERY COUNTY **EXECUTIVE ORDER**



Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject:	Abandonment of Reed Street Miller's Second Add. to Bethesda Subdivision Bethesda	Executive Order No. 356-07	Subject Suffix AB
Originatin	Public Works and Transportation	Department Number AB 17-07	Effective Date 11/26/07

AB702

Pursuant to Section 49-62 of the Montgomery County Code (2004) as amended, the County Executive or his Designee shall conduct a Public Hearing

at 1:15 p.m. on Monday January 28, 2008 101 Monroe Street, EOB Lobby Conference Room Rockville, Maryland 20850

to consider an application received from Holland & Knight on behalf of its clients, Street Retail, Inc. JBG Companies, Frederick S. Burke and Carter S. Kaufmann, the applicants, seeking abandonment of Reed Street, Miller's Second Addition to Bethesda subdivision, in Bethesda.

2. After the aforesaid Hearing, the Hearing Officer shall report his or her findings and recommendations to the County Executive for further consideration as prescribed by County Code.

Approved as to Form and Legality Office of the County Attorney

Eric Willis

Assistant County Attorney

APPROVED

Thomas J. Street

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Distribution:

Department of Public Works and Transportation

Department of Finance

