# PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL 17-342, "TREGARON CONSERVANCY TAX EXEMPTION AND RELIEF AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007"

**Before the**
**Committee on Finance and Revenue**
**Council of the District of Columbia**

**The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman**

**September 26, 2007, 10:00 a.m.**
**Room 120, John A. Wilson Building**


**Testimony of**
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**Assistant General Counsel**
**Office of Tax and Revenue**

**Natwar M. Gandhi**
**Chief Financial Officer**
**Government of the District of Columbia**

Good afternoon, Chairman Evans, and members of the Committee on Finance and Revenue. I am Tracy Perry, Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Tax and Revenue ("OTR") of the District of Columbia ("District"). I am pleased to present testimony today on Bill 17-342, the "Tregaron Conservancy Tax Exemption and Relief Amendment Act of 2007."

The mission of the Tregaron Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, is to preserve, rehabilitate and maintain the historic Tregaron Estate built in 1912. The Tregaron Estate lies between Cleveland Park and Woodley Park and borders on a small strip of Rock Creek Park. The Tregaron Estate is designated as a Category III landmark of the District of Columbia.

The purpose of this bill is to exempt from real property tax the property located in square 2084, lots 842 and 843. This property will be transferred from Tregaron L.P. to the Tregaron Conservancy. The property will be exempt from real property tax as long as the real property is owned by the Tregaron Conservancy, is used solely to further its tax-exempt purpose, remains unimproved as an open space and parkland, and is reasonably accessible to the general public without any charge. This bill will also exempt the transfer and recordation tax for the Tregaron Conservancy and the Washington International School.

We recommend several technical corrections to Bill 17-342. Please see Attachment A to this testimony.

**Fiscal Impact of Bill 17-342**

We estimate that the proposed legislation would result in reduced real property tax revenue of approximately $149,000 annually. Minimal operating costs are expected. This legislation is estimated to result in reduced real property tax revenue of $172,012 in FY 2008 and $760, 012 for the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan period. A formal fiscal impact statement will be submitted on the bill will be submitted to the Committee subsequent to this hearing.

Thank you, Chairman Evans, for the opportunity to comment on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other Councilmembers might have at this time.