

March 3, 1978

COALITION FOR PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Progress Report On The Rockefeller Estate Matter

As the public controversy over the development of the Rockefeller Estate moves into its sixth month, this seems like an appropriate time to review the Coalition's progress to date, and to take a look at the plans for the immediate future.

The Coalition ("CPED") was formed in early October after the Rozansky and Kay Construction Company had released plans for the development of the estate showing a maximum density, tract-type development of between 110-150 houses, connected by several through streets. Representatives of Rozansky and Kay were quoted at that time by the press as having stated that the company had "purchased" the estate and would begin construction within three months.

Five months have passed: Governor Rockefeller still owns the property; and his express invitation to CPED to find an alternative buyer remains open. CPED's activities during this five month period may be summarized as follows:

1. CPED held its first open meeting on October 27, 1977, and by the end of the month had obtained over 1,100 signatures on petitions to Governor Rockefeller, the Mayor, the D. C. Council and the Zoning Commission.
2. CPED retained Richard Ridley, a highly regarded architect/urban planner, to work with it in developing standards and procedures for large tract urban land development, and in evaluating proposals to develop the Rockefeller Estate.
3. CPED held numerous meetings with City officials and with other citizens groups throughout the City which expressed similar concerns regarding the uncontrolled development of large properties.
4. CPED initiated and has maintained active communications with representatives of Governor Rockefeller, including his attorneys and his real estate agent.

4. At the urging of CPED and the MPO, Rozansky and Kay have agreed to participate in discussions aimed at reaching an agreement on reasonable environmental/developmental standards, architectural concepts and implementation considerations which would control the development of the Rockefeller Estate. CPED will pursue these discussions expeditiously and in good faith, but will strenuously oppose any development which is not consistent with reasonable environmental/developmental standards.

CPED plans to continue actively to work on all fronts with regard to the Rockefeller Estate matter. No agreements or decisions affecting the community at large will be made before an open meeting is held at which all interested citizens can participate.

At this writing, it is still far from clear that Governor Rockefeller and Rozansky and Kay will ever consummate an agreement. Rozansky and Kay's current option-type contract with the Governor expires in less than a month, and to CPED's knowledge the Governor has made no commitment to extend it. CPED's recent contacts with Governor Rockefeller's representatives indicate that the Governor is still interested in alternative buyers and remains receptive to offers from such buyers.

The Steering Committee will continue to keep CPED's members and all interested citizens advised of progress and developments through newsletters and meetings of local citizens associations. In the meantime, should any of you desire to discuss, comment or question any of the actions or areas of involvement, please contact one of the Steering Committee members whose names appear below.

Cici Carusi	Tommy Jackson
Jeff Dwyer	George Pughe
Barbara Franklin	John Wallach
Fisher Howe	Peter Work