

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

December 27, 2007

Ramon Estrada  
Chairman ANC 2B  
9 Dupont Circle, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Request for Legal Opinion Regarding Third  
Church's Rights to Oppose Historic Designation

Dear Chairman Estrada:

This is in response to your November 25, 2007 letter to Attorney General Linda Singer in which you request, on behalf of ANC2B, that this Office issue an opinion on federal law regarding the rights of the Third Church of Christ, Scientist, located in ANC 2B at 900 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., in the matter of an application to designate this property as a historic landmark in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites. Subsequent to your letter, on December 13, 2007, the Historic Preservation Board ("HPRB") issued an opinion granting the application for historic designation of the church and the Christian Science Monitor Building and complex at 900-918 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 1601-1605 I Street, N.W.

Pursuant to §15(d)(3)(A) of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, effective October 10, 1975, D.C. Law 1-21, D.C. Official Code § 1-309.12(d)(3)(A) (2006 Repl.), the Office of Attorney General is required to provide to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions "[l]egal interpretations of statutes concerning or affecting the Commissions, or of issues or concerns affecting the Commissions." This mandate does not include advice of the nature you seek, which involves the individual rights of a church located in your Commission. Moreover, ANC 2B's objections to the

historic designation, which are listed in your letter, were specifically considered and given great weight by the HPRB in its opinion.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

LINDA SINGER  
Attorney General

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHEILA KAPLAN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Legal Counsel Division

cc: Commissioner Mike Silverstein 2B06