

Josephine P. Hallam
13835 North 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

April 25, 2019

Honorable Justin Wilson, Mayor, and
Members of the City Council
City Hall
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: 619 South Lee Street; Appeal of BAR Nos. 2018-00410 and 2018-00411

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

Justice Hugo L. Black was my grandfather. The house on Lee Street has personal significance to me and to my family. As a young child, I played in the yard at Lee Street. I distinctly remember the smell of the roses in the summer air. I remember time well spent with my grandfather, aunts, uncles and cousins. As children, my cousins and I found it to be a magical place, where we could watch the fish swim, run around the tennis court, and taste the foods picked from my grandfather's garden. After my grandfather's passing, the house was sold and the new owners would invite all of my grandfather's children, grandchildren and law clerks there for reunions. This was also something of a magical experience. We re-united in laughter and reminisced about the memories we each held of Lee Street, as we simultaneously created new ones. And while I hope my memories are captivating enough to persuade you, the truth is that the legacy of the Lee Street house is so much more than any single memory or any combination of things I could remember as a child.

I think that when you buy a home that you know has historical significance, you do so with the understanding that you may be limited in doing so. That is the risk that you assume when you choose to purchase a property of such historical significance.

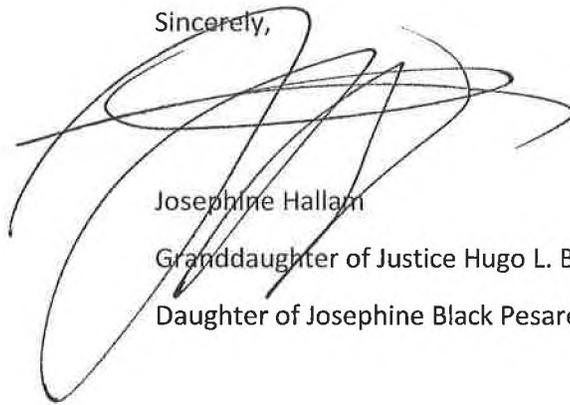
Some of the most important decisions in American history were made in that back yard and on that clay court--*Brown vs. Board Education*, *Gideon vs Wainwright*, *New York Times vs. United States*, *Miranda vs Arizona* and so on and so on. Those decisions are forever embedded in the soil at 619 South Lee Street. This home had very specific legal restrictions spelled out to every purchaser, not only in the deed, but also in the zoning laws of old Alexandria.

So, when deciding whether or not to allow the requested modifications, I would ask you to consider the legacy that is the house on Lee Street, to consider the legacy of my grandfather and to ask yourselves if

that legacy and what it means to Alexandria and to the Nation are outweighed by one man's desire to change the property.

Once the decision to change the property is allowed, my grandfather's legacy, which is cradled in the Alexandria home and yard he took such pride creating with my grandmother during his tenure on the United States Supreme Court, will be lost to history forever. I ask that you have respect for my grandfather's contribution to this country, and recognize the historical significance of this parcel of land, by protecting it for future generations to be able to share a piece of the heart and soul of a man who dedicated his life to a country and Constitution he so dearly loved.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned over the typed name and affiliation.

Josephine Hallam

Granddaughter of Justice Hugo L. Black

Daughter of Josephine Black Pesaresi