ON MAY 11, 2004, THE BOARD STRUCK THIS DOCUMENT FROM THE RECORD.

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 20

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.17092
EXHIBIT NO.20

1812 Vernon St. Apt. 33
Washington, DC 20009-1259

November 24, 2003

Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th St. NW
Suite 210 S
Washington, DC 20001

17092

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To the BZA:

I have been a customer of Wagtime, LLC, for a year, and I want to express my total support of the business continuing at 1412 Q St. NW. I write to you not just as a customer, but as a homeowner who appreciates enterprising small businesses in my neighborhood.

My dog, Lizzy, spends every weekday at Wagtime, and the trust that comes with leaving my little girl there is enormous. But Wagtime doesn't just care for my dog, a paying customer. Lisa Schreiber and Ofer Khal have taken in many strays from the neighborhood and the humane society who otherwise would have been left to the streets or taxed our already over-burdened animal shelter. Almost every employee at Wagtime has personally taken in a stray and they have found homes for a handful of others. This is just one example of how Wagtime does more than their fair share to help the neighborhood.

As someone who has spent a lot of time there and witnessed quite a bit of the harassment from the neighbors on Q Street Northwest, my honest assessment is that the neighbors made a decision from the outset that they didn't want a pet boutique on their street and have never given Lisa and Ofer a chance to prove that their business could be a positive addition to the neighborhood. As a reporter and generally fair person, I have tried to give their arguments a chance, but I don't believe what they say about Wagtime is supported by the facts. This is a vendetta, pure and simple.

Please uphold the zoning decision giving Wagtime its occupancy permit. Otherwise what kind of city would Washington be for small businesses, to have much needed entrepreneurs invest in a business only to have it taken away? That's not the kind of city I want to live in.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne Nelson

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