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

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 22

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17092
EXHIBIT NO. 22

Arley R. Conner & Scott A. Kirkland
1830 R Street, N.W., #72
Washington, D.C. 20009

17092

November 24, 2003

Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th St. N.W.
Suite 210 S
Washington, D.C. 20001

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 MAY 20 PM 2:02

RE: Certificate of Occupancy for Wagtime Pet Spa and Boutique. 1412 Q Street

Dear Honorable Board Members:

Recently, Stephanie Mencimer and Andrea Dougherty, two persons residing on Q Street, challenged the Certificate of Occupancy (certificate) of Wagtime Pet Spa and Boutique (Wagtime) for multiple reasons. These challengers, in addition to blaming this Board for erroneously issuing the certificate, have thrown all but their kitchen sinks at the Board to thwart what others perceive as the resurgence of a neighborhood. It is because of these claims that we felt compelled to speak out.

Today, the face of Logan Circle reflects new grocery stores, hardware stores, coffee shops, restaurants, home furnishing stores, bars, hotels, and novelty shops that did not exist a year ago. Hardly a week passes without an announcement of the opening of a new business or apartment building in Logan Circle. In just over two years since our relocation to D.C., it seems as though the area, about which many warned us, has now become an area of tremendous growth and gentrification.

Wagtime Pet Spa and Boutique (Wagtime), a business that offers boarding, daycare, grooming, and pet supplies is one of the many businesses that have recently opened in the Logan Circle area. In addition to contributing the overall revitalization of the Logan Circle area, Wagtime has demonstrated its commitment to the community and has had a positive impact on the neighborhood, as well as the animals in the community.

1. Wagtime has consistently offered reliable dog grooming services and pet supplies. The owners and staff have always been conscious about the health of our pet, as well as responsive to our concerns.
2. Wagtime has acted as a community builder, bringing neighborhood pet owners together. Much like the new Starbucks or Caribou coffee shops, Wagtime offers a place to meet others. In addition to meeting other like-minded dog owners each time we take our dog in for a grooming, we have met many other neighbors through Wagtime-sponsored "meet and greet" activities.
3. Wagtime has helped raise awareness of and money for various pet welfare organizations that provide services within the community. In addition to regularly donating to animal welfare charities, Wagtime provides shelter and locates homes for unwanted pets. Most recently, it sponsored a Doggie Fashion Show which benefited D.C. Pets, a nonprofit organization which cares for animals belonging to people who are infirm or bedridden.
4. Wagtime has never treated my animal badly or appeared to be unclean or unsafe at any point within the last two years. The store and kennels have been clean and sanitary upon our every visit. Furthermore, we have never had any concerns over how Wagtime staff have treated the animals in their care nor over the conditions in which the animals were kept.
5. Wagtime has a location that is safer to which to walk our dog, and therefor to enjoy the sites that the neighborhood has to offer. Being so new to the area, we would never have had a reason to more closely explore the Logan Circle area and to discover the many things it has to offer had it not been for Wagtime's relocation.

However, one could see how those who do not like animals could view the location of such a business as a nuisance. This is especially true if located right beside or across from your residence. It is not our intention to criticize these persons for their point-of-views, or to erode the basis for which they stand. Rather, our letter serves only to point out the good in Wagtime's relocation to the Logan Circle area and, hopefully, to give some additional weight to the Wagtime side. As you can see, we believe that maintaining Wagtime's current location serves to benefit the community more than does revoking its certificate. For these reasons, we also believe that the community's interests should be considered as greater than the interests of the two persons lodging the complaint. We thank you for your attention and time in this matter.

Best Regards,

Arley R. Conner

Scott A. Kirkland

cc: Wagtime
S. Mencimer
A. Dougherty
Mayor's Office

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 22