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Thursday, January 15, 2004

The Hon. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 2000`

RE: Support for Appellants in Appeal #17092 (Wagtime, 1412 Q Street NW)

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

The purpose of my letter is to request your support in revoking the inappropriately issued Certificate of Occupancy for Wagtime Dog Kennel located at 1412 Q Street NW and to make you aware of the diminishment in my quality of life since Wagtime Kennel opened on the block where I live last July.

Sharing your home with a dog kennel is much more than I bargained for when I purchased my home on the 1400 block of Q Street, NW. Since Wagtime has opened, the tree box in front of my house, which I paid over $400 to have a brick border professionally installed and for which I have spent countless dollars and hours caring is now a litter box overflowing with dog feces. There was an occasional problem with dog owners not properly disposing of their dog feces before Wagtime Kennel opened last July, but the problem is now out of control. City officials have repeatedly told me that this is an enforcement problem, which it may indeed be. However, after numerous calls to the DC Metropolitan Police Department's non-emergency line to report dog walkers from Wagtime who are not properly disposing of the feces from the dogs they are walking, I can assure you that no action has been taken by the DC Police and that they have no interest in enforcing the City's regulations related to dog waste and litter. In fact, I have been harshly lectured on more than one occasion for "wasting" the valuable time of the DC Metropolitan Police Department by reporting such violations. I have now surrendered the tree box in front of my house to Wagtime Kennel and the dogs it "manages" and the tree box currently runneth over with feces from the dogs Wagtime Kennel boards.

Secondly, the barking from the dogs boarded at Wagtime Kennel is at times maddening! How the poor employees stand the noise is beyond me. I can no longer use the alley behind my house to reach my gym or dry cleaners due to the dog barking noise and the waste water run off from Wagtime Kennel, which is hosed directly into the alley and drains westward towards 15th Street, NW. The stench of dog urine and feces is over powering and disgusting and I believe it presents numerous health concerns. As a responsible adult, I avoid unnecessary risks. Therefore, I can no longer use the alley behind my home except to access

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my parking spaces and to put my garbage cans out for collection due to Wagtime Kennel's noise and waste management "practices."

However, these are not the most dangerous risks associated with Wagtime Kennel and the alley behind my home. Of greatest concern, the alley behind my home has become Wagtime's ad hoc dog run. I am now regularly greeted with dog feces when I exit my car after parking behind my home in the parking spaces that I own. I have been frightened by off-leash dogs from Wagtime that run up to "greet" me when I exit my car or the gate from my yard into the alley. This can be quite frightening especially when the dog is a large one. I have also been repeatedly barked and growled at by off-leash dogs from Wagtime in the alley while the "responsible" employee looks on. When I have reported such behavior to the DC Metropolitan Police Department, I have been told that there is nothing that they can do. Because of this unbelievably irresponsible behavior, I have put Wagtime, their landlord, and their Counsel on notice. Should I ever be attacked or bitten by a dog being boarded at Wagtime Kennel, I will not rest until I have exhausted every legal remedy available to me under the laws of the District of Columbia. I view this behavior as criminal.

Why should a law-abiding, tax paying citizen of the District of Columbia have to live this way? I believe the zoning code is designed to protect citizens like myself from being co-located with incompatible businesses or operations. This is why I believe that the zoning code never intended for dog kennels to be located next to residences.

I will not even get into the double parking on Q Street of Wagtime customers and the traffic jams they cause, the Wagtime Kennel vehicle with "Wagtime" vanity license plates issued in Virginia that is perpetually parked illegally on our block, and the inappropriateness of a dog kennel being placed in a row house on a residential block. I invite each of you to visit Wagtime Kennel and make your own determination as to the City's inappropriate application of the zoning regulation to this type of business.

I hope that you will deny Wagtime Kennel's dog boarding use. While I have not been impressed with the owner's and staff's interest in being a good neighbor, I do not take issue with Wagtime Kennel's operation as a retail pet supply store or the dog grooming operations. Wagtime Kennel's boarding and kennel use on a residential block is incompatible with its surroundings and unfair to its neighbors and its Certificate of Occupancy must be revoked due to its improper issuance. I hope that you will agree and act accordingly.

Sincerely,

William A. Collins, Jr.
1450 Q Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

facsimile transmittal

To:	Board of Zoning Appeals	**Fax:**	202.727.6072
From:	Al Collins	**Date:**	01/15/2004
Re:	BZA appeal number 17092	**Pages:**	3
CC:			

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Please distribute to Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board.

Thank you,

Al Collins

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