Thursday, January 13, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

We are residents of Q Street N.W. and are writing to express our complete support of the appellants in the Board of Zoning Adjustment's (BZA) case number 17092.

As a community, the 1400 block of Q Street N.W. has been enthusiastic supporters of commercial development in the Logan Circle area. As a result of those efforts, we enjoy the opportunity to walk to a grocery store, a hardware store, several furniture stores, coffee shops and an increasing number of restaurants. Most of this development has significantly increased the quality of life in this neighborhood. Wagtime, however, has proven to be an exception.

As a 24-hour indoor/outdoor boarding kennel, the facility's operation results in significant noise, odor, and waste runoff into the back alley. The noise levels from dogs at the facility barking have been measured to consistently and significantly exceed DC noise ordinances—even when the dogs are indoors. Despite the noise levels, the neighborhood has been unable to get the Department of Consumer Regulatory Affairs or the Metropolitan Police Department to enforce the DC Noise ordinances.

As neighbors who live on the west end of the 1400 block of Q Street N.W., we have fortunately been spared much of the noise impact. However, the facilities' practice of hosing the back patio off and into the back alley means we have to transit large pools of water contaminated with dog urine, feces and dog hair on a near daily basis. As a result we cannot walk, bike or drive through the back alley without negotiating this pool of waste. That fact combined with the intense odor of dog urine that emanates from the facility during even moderately warm weather has taken away the option to use the alley if we choose to walk or bike toward the east.

In addition to these negative impacts, we have also noticed a significant increase in the amount of dog feces in the tree boxes, front yards, and even the sidewalks since Wagtime has opened and dog traffic through the neighborhood has increased. Not all dog owners care to obey DC Law which requires them to pick up after their animals, as a result plants in the tree boxes have been killed and residents must walk the sidewalks with caution lest they tread in dog excrement.

As dog owners, we understand the need for services such as Wagtime's. Dogs require space, playtime and supervision. However, as homeowners, we also question the wisdom of placing such a facility in a location that is surrounded on all sides by residential uses. The negative impact to these adjacent residences is far too great, and we would argue the negative impact runs down the street with the contaminated water washed out of the facility.

As a result, we fully support the appellants in their view that DCRA was wrong to issue a C of O to Wagtime permitting the operation of a dog boarding kennel at 1412 Q Street NW. This decision should be reversed by the Board of Zoning Adjustment and Wagtime should be required to immediately cease the boarding and kennel aspect of its operation.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Daniel Chiu
1448 Q Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 40

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.17092
EXHIBIT NO.40