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By Facsimile: 202-727-6072

The Honorable Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA No. 17092: Appeal of Decision permitting
24-Hour Dog Boarding Kennel at premises 1412 Q Street, NW

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am a resident of the Berret School located at 1408 Q Street and the former Chair of the Berret School Condominium Association. The residents of the Berret School are directly and substantially impacted by the operations of a 24-hour boarding kennel at 1412 Q Streets and, therefore, have a significant interest in your decision in this matter. In general, I am writing to support the appeal of the Q Street Association and others seeking to reverse the decision of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to issue a Certificate on Occupancy (C of O) to WagTime with respect to its right to operate a dog boarding kennel at 1412 Q Street.

It is exciting to be a resident of a vibrant neighborhood that supports commercial, arts and residential uses. To maintain the diversity and to avoid conflicts; however, it is very important that the residents be able to rely on the BZA to take a hard look at the actual proposed uses and the applicable regulations, particularly where the proposed use in not explicitly permitted as of right. I will defer to the formal appeal for the legal and technical arguments, but would like to highlight two explicit objections I have to the BZA's interpretation that a boarding kennel is a permissible use that is somehow compatible with the other allowable commercial uses or the neighborhood.

Unlike other businesses in the neighborhood and listed in the regulations, the operation of a boarding kennel by its very nature invites as many people and dogs as possible to come into the neighborhood on a transient basis. The more successful the WagTime's kennel operation becomes, the greater the conflict there will be with the neighborhood and the clearer it is that the operation is fundamentally unlike other permissible uses. More often than not, daily dog boarders come in during the early morning and evening on the way to and from work. This results in illegal and double parking of vehicles, precisely at the time that it is important to keep a steady and safe flow of traffic on Q Street, as well as to permit residents access to their cars and parking (already in short supply.) WagTime specifically touts its ability to offer an outside run for its dogs, as well as overnight boarding for dogs. The BZA does not need the benefit of a sound meter or the actual

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record of community conflicts, to recognize that the community impacts of barking and potential human health impacts of fecal runoff that result from bringing a large number of dogs together in a confined space is not in any way the same as or comparable to operating a pet store or veterinary clinic in the neighborhood. Again, the reality is that the more successful that WagTime is in attracting dogs to its kennel and boarding operation the greater the conflicts and the clearer it is that this use in not like other permissible commercial uses in the neighborhood.

The BZA should have recognized the inherent conflict of the proposed kennel operation with the applicable regulations and with the community at the time of the initial application, and I strongly urge you to reconsider that decision at this time. I respectfully request that you reverse the initial decision of the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and that the C of O for WagTime be revoked or amended to prohibit operation of a boarding kennel.

I appreciate your assistance in circulating this letter to other Members of the Board. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 202-939-0973. Thank you very much for you consideration

Sincerely,

Tony MacDonald