JAMES A. BAKER JR
1424 Q STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

D.C. RECEIVED BOARD OF ZONING

January 19, 2004

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

BZA No. 17092: Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Decision Allowing the Location of a 24-Hour Dog Boarding Kennel at premises 1412 Q Street, NW

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

As a dog owner on the 1400 block of Q Street, I believe that it is wrong to have a kennel in a downtown residential neighborhood. The Wagtime group has been less than responsive to the concerns of the neighborhood. I personally would not allow my pet to be boarded at such a place where the lack of concern for cleanliness. Wagtime's facilities may be cleaned on a regular basis however their idea of washing urine and excrement into the ally for the neighbors to deal with is deplorable. Walking down the ally between Q and Church has become a nasty event. When it is warm it smells of urine and you have to look were you step for fear of stepping in excrement. The Wagtime facility has made no concessions towards cleaning it up, and is feeding the rodent community.

The tree boxes on Q Street have also becomes a source of further cleanliness issues, with the increased traffic of pets being walked to the facility and owners who do not clean up after them. I repeatedly have to clean multiple dogs' excrement up from in front of my home on a regular basis. Excess excrement from other animals is a health risk to my pet as each with set of droppings my pet is potentially being exposed to an unknown medical history of a strange animal.

I have no objections to a retail operation in the facility as it was a real estate office for years, but a kennel and boarding operation is inappropriate and a nuisance for the Neighbors who have invested their time, money, and efforts to neighborhood beautification and have seen this community through the hard times of it renaissance.

I fully support the appellants in their case that the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs was wrong in their decision to issue a Certificate of Occupancy to WagTime in respect 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 kennel aspect of its operation.

Thank you for you consideration.

Sincerely,

James A. Baker Jr

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 56

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.17092
EXHIBIT NO.56