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January 17, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
Board of the Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

BZA Appeal No. 17092—Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Decision for 24-Hour Dog Boarding Kennel at 1412 Q Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I am a resident of 1408 Q Street, NW and I would like to express my support of the appellants in the above referenced appeal against a 24-Hour dog boarding facility (WagTime) at 1412 Q Street, NW.

I have been living in this neighborhood for about 4 years now and witnessed the positive change into a vibrant community with businesses and residents living side by side making it worthwhile to live in the District and fulfilling the Mayor's vision of a diverse and vibrant inner District community. However, this balance has been severely disrupted by the opening of the above mentioned 24-Hour dog kennel (with open yard in the back, directly adjacent to residential properties). While I do not turn against a business operating on a residential street in that property as such, the nature of that business as a dog boarding facility (with open-air run off!) makes a normal conduct of life impossible. The last 6 months since the opening of the dog kennel have been a nightmare which should have been obvious for everyone with common sense from the beginning:

- **Intrusive dog barking in the early morning hours and at night, including on weekends, that goes on for hours at a time** (I made diverse log entries into the neighborhood log and also phoned the landlord of the property). Calls from harassed neighbors were left uncalled by the police as well as DCRA. I had to relocate visiting guests due to the unbearable noise levels from dog barking (and the occasional shouting by WagTime employees) in the guestroom which faces to the west toward WagTime which is just 2 houses down Q Street from us; unfortunately this possibility eludes my husband and me since we live here, and hoped to do so permanently, and have our bedroom on the same side facing WagTime.

- **The amount of fecal matter on the sidewalks on Q Street and adjacent private properties (!)** which may be caused either by employees of WagTime walking the dogs

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(the neighbors to the west of WagTime had to install a fence to keep the dogs –and the fecal waste—off their own property) or by customers going to or coming from WagTime.

- **A noticeable and unacceptable increase of traffic and illegal parking.** During the drop-off and pick-up of the dogs (usually during rush hour, at a time when the normal flow of traffic is increased anyway) customers frequently park in second row or block off the alley ways around the business. My greatest fear is that it is only a matter of time until a serious accident will occur with customers jumping out of their cars in a hurry to drop of the dogs and other cars speeding by, although I naturally do hope that this will never be the case. It is just a disaster waiting to happen, like the unfortunate dog that got killed while being in WagTime care (the dog had run out of the business into the street and was run over by a car).

- **Waste-run off in the alley way behind the business, odor and waste problems.** I myself witnessed and alerted the DC Health Department, Dr. Keller, to an incident in the summer where the drain in the yard of WagTime overflowed and fecal matter was merely washed away by WagTime staff into the public alley behind. The odor and waste run-off behind the businesses yard is considerable and I cannot see how the "residents to be" in the new Metropolis loft building will be able to cope with that. By the way, my appeal to the Health Department was brushed off with the comment that DCRA was responsible and that the feces was not clearly recognizable as such—that despite the fact that we produced photos that undeniably and clearly documented just that)

Dear Chairman Griffis, I personally appeal to you and your common sense on an issue that everybody not directly concerned seems to treat as "well, glad it is not my back-yard". I sincerely hope that the use of that business as dog-boarding facility and kennel will not be extended in view of the above mentioned reasons. WagTime's boarding and kennel use and the requirements on a residential block are simply incompatible: in an almost symbiotic relationship with residents and businesses living side by side—which is characteristic of a vibrant inner city life— due respect needs to be paid to the special requirements of each to make it work. An open-air 24-hours dog boarding facility next to residential condos and houses ignores just that.

Sincerely yours,

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