Tuesday, 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:

I am writing in support of the Appellants in Appeal #17092 (Wagtime, 1412 Q Street NW)

As a thirty-three year resident of the 1400 block of Q Street, I feel I can assess the impact of Wagtime on the community. Myself and other residents of this block have a long history of community involvement stretching back over decades and have actively worked to improve the business and residential environment in with we live. I am very gratified that after thirty plus years I can now begin to purchase goods and services within my neighborhood without have to go elsewhere to spend my dollars. This increase in commercial activity within the 14th Street corridor for the most part has been a benefit to me and the neighborhood with the exception of Wagtime.

Since Wagtime has opened for business, seven doors to the east, the quality of life and peace and quiet of the neighborhood have been negatively impacted. Often while trying to enjoy outside activities in my yard, I have encountered the sound of barking dogs emanating from Wagtime and on two occasions have heard barking while inside my home with the windows closed.

In addition to the noise, there are now, on a nearly daily basis, pools of water located in the alley behind my home that contain dog hair, urine and fecal matter, with the accompanying odors, that are washed into the alley by Wagtime. In the past, I have cleaned the alleyway behind my home on a fairly frequent basis from spring through fall. However; because of the runoff, I will have to live with the accumulation of trash and hope the city will do a better job of cleaning the alley.

Another noticeable change is the amount of fecal matter on the sidewalks and in the tree boxes in the 1400 block of Q. I and many of my neighbors participate in a spring and fall cleaning, planting and mulching of all the tree boxed on the block. Over the years we have literally invested thousands of dollars in this effort. Since the location of Wagtime on this block the amount of dog traffic has increased considerably with many patrons walking their dogs to and from the site. Unfortunately not all dog owners respect the law or other peoples property, resulting in many plants being damaged or killed by owners allowing their dogs to walk through or urinate and/or defecate in the tree boxes. It is not uncommon to encounter feces on the sidewalks or evidence of some unfortunate pedestrian having "stepped in it". While walking on this block, you now have to keep your eyes on the sidewalk or suffer the consequences

.

This is in addition to traffic problem created by Wagtime's patrons double parking on Q Street while dropping off or picking up their pets. The majority of this activity taking place during the morning and evening rush hours. Also, the staff uses the alley between Q and Corcoran Streets to illegally park their cars adding to the traffic congestion on Q Street.

I do not deny the need for the type of service that Wagtime provides or question their patrons right to own dogs or utilize their service. I do however question providing these services in a location what is surrounded on all sides by residential use. There is a business located on 14th Street a couple blocks from Wagtime that offers similar services, less the outdoor activity area, and it's impact on the surround neighborhood is negligible. Wagtime's boarding and kennel use on a residential block is incompatible with its surroundings. If the boarding and kennel uses were denied, I feel, the impact on the neighborhood described above would diminish to an acceptable level.

Sincerely,

Louis A Cipro
1426 Q Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

BZA
Case No. 17092
Exhibit No. 66

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.17092
EXHIBIT NO.66