

Hello Com. Barnes (Dianne),

Well, since the orange signs have been placed on the front of the complex, I am now getting plenty of questions and there seems to be some opposition to this BZA request.

BZA Notice

The Notices were finally put up on the entrance to Franklin Commons on the evening of Wednesday, April 15th. The BZA hearing scheduled for April 21st, that's 7 days notice, and it's supposed to be "15 days in advance of the BZA hearing."

Parking

Several of the residents that I've encountered over the last few days are asking questions about the parking noted on the sign, that is the special exception from off-street parking to accommodate the center, namely Ms. Bradsher and her family. This is because the day care center's clients mostly seem to walk into the complex, and are probably using public transportation and not driving.

However, in May 2014, the resident manager, repaved and re-lined all of the parking spaces to make them smaller. [Residents are still complaining about dings and dents trying to get in and out of their vehicles]. The comments now are that shrinking the parking spaces were to accommodate the center.

The Beginning and Purpose of the Center

Five years, when we were approached by Ms. Bradsher, (who was a resident here at that time), at a tenant association meeting to help organize a *Franklin Commons Intergenerational Day Care Center*, as a non-profit organization. She stated that the Center was to provide programs and activities for *all* Franklin Commons residents of *all* ages, from infants to senior citizens.

This Center was to be the Community Center for Franklin Commons residents. Several programs have been offered by Ms. Tomlin, an experienced teacher who has worked in many educational and recreational programs within the District of Columbia government and who is also an extremely competent community organizer.

However, Ms. Bradsher is, and has been operating the Child Development Center as a sole-proprietorship, along with her family.

As an original Incorporator, a Board Member and the Registered Agent, I have yet to be asked participate or to even visit the center. We have never had a Board meeting, which I've requested.

More Teachers Needed

There were questions as to why more teachers were needed, since the enrollment is very small. Several residents claim that there are only about 7 to 8 kids enrolled in the center.

Expanding Hours of Operation to Midnight

There seems to be major opposition to this request to stay open until 12 midnight. Previously, several residents complained about 'after-hours' adult activities at the center. What they described as a party-like atmosphere, and folks leaving with 'red cups' in hand.

Residency

Ms. Cassandra Bradsher, is **NOT** a resident here. She arrives here each morning in her vehicle with Maryland tags. I don't know where she lives exactly, but she does not live in Franklin Commons.

Problems at The Center

The day care center has been fraught with problems from day one. Low enrollment, parents pulling their kids out, teachers leaving.

One child, *allegedly*, was injured at the day care center and suffered a chipped tooth, with no reasonable explanation to the parents. (Note: This is from another resident who lives in the building with that parent).

According to the resident, when the parent inquired as to what happened to the child, *allegedly*, Ms. Bradsher, became angry and threatened the parent with a stay-away Order.

Anger Management Issues

Ms. Bradsher has severe anger management issues, which I can share with you in depth at a later time.

I spent many months of putting this non-profit organization together, including the preparation of: Incorporation documents, 501(c)(3), EIN number, the budget, the Curriculum, correspondence to the various DC government offices, etc.

Once I had completed all of the work (and doing so while I was in school at Trinity), at the final meeting in the rental office, Ms. Bradsher suddenly jumped to her feet, came over to me and began shouting angrily to me: "I want you out" repeatedly.

Needless to say I was frightened and to be truthful, I still am. I shared this with Sara Bardin (BZA) that I may not even appear at this hearing.

Not only does Ms. Bradsher have anger issues, so do her children. They have a history of anger and violence here at Franklin Commons, both verbal and physical. I share this because Ms. Bradsher is deceptive.

She has not included the residents in any activity since she was given the final approval for what she wanted, which was and is her own day care center.

Previously she worked for *Bennett Day Care Center*. You might want to get a reference from him also. After reviewing Ms. Bradsher's resume, I did ask Mr. Bennett for a reference, but all he would say, and continued to repeat, "she's very good at decorating."

Ms Bradsher's Credentials

Further, Ms. Bradsher misled me about her credentials; which according to her, she had a degree in Early Childhood Development and in Business. Neither was true; apparently she is now attending UDC in order to attain these credentials.

The First BZA Hearing: 18013

Previously for the first BZA hearing, 5 years ago, the residents were not fully informed then either. The BZA Hearing Notice stayed up for about 2 days, and it was placed so high up on the columns that we had at the time (since removed), that it couldn't be read. Also, letters to residents within 200 feet were sent to addresses outside of Franklin Commons.

200ft BZA Notices

Also, then as it was this time, with the continuance hearing, letters were not sent to residents within the 200ft boundary, but to residences and business, out-of-town addresses and even to the Glenwood Cemetery. After filing a complaint with BZA, did Franklin Commons residents (who live within the 200ft boundary) receive notice of the hearing.

A Family Business

Ms. Bradsher has employed her children, the two daughters, and her son to work in the center. *Allegedly*, and I stress "*allegedly*," the son, is, *allegedly* an ex-felon. He was 'away' for a good while and returned, I believe, last year. Several residents have commented on issue, that based on DC government laws, ex-felons are not to be anywhere near a day care center. However, I did observe him transporting several children in the back of a mini-van type vehicle. Just piled them in the rear of the vehicle, with no seat belts or other safety procedures.

Sadly, no one dares to say anything about this, to Ms. Bradsher, or they risk intimidation, antagonism, verbal assaults and perhaps, on occasion, a brawl (fight).

Request Postponement of BZA18013A for April 21st

In closing, I believe it would only be fair to the residents of Franklin Commons to postpone the April 21st BZA hearing. It would allow them more time to gather input, hold a meeting, perhaps even invite yourself or a representative from the BZA and certainly Ms. Bradsher to explain the purpose and procedure of the hearing and, then allow them to follow-up with their own recommendations, either in support or opposition to BZA case 18013A. Thank you, I know ANC work is not easy!

Respectfully,

Gwen Southerland, President
Franklin Commons Tenant & Civic Association
and
Incorporator, Board Member, Registered Agent
Franklin Commons Intergenerational Day Care Center
[d/b/a Franklin Commons Child Development Center]