

MEMORANDUM

To: Whom it may concern

From: Georgetown University Student Association
Jason Kluger, Vice-President
Molly Breen, Director of Communications

Date: January 8th, 2010

Subject: Role of Philly Pizza and Grill in the Georgetown University Community

We write this memorandum from the unique perspective as Georgetown Students who work closely with the ANC and other neighborhood alliances. We are active in the Alliance for Local Living and participate in other informal meetings between University officials and the neighborhood council. Given our experiences in working with both the University and the community we believe that closing Philly Pizza and Grill is an inappropriate response to complaints that stem from issues unrelated to Philly Pizza and Grill.

Philly Pizza and Grill's service to the community extends far beyond that of a local business. The restaurant's owner, Mehmet Kocak, has participated in activities that further the academic, political spirit of the university as well as activities which enhance the safety of all students. For example, in an effort to promote the benefits of student representation on campus, Mr. Kocak has annually worked with potential student government candidates on promoting not only the school wide election but also the initiatives discussed during those campaigns. From information slips placed in his pizza boxes to large signs hung up in his restaurant, Mr. Kocak has demonstrated his commitment to the students and has helped them garner support for a number of crucial issues ranging from career services to green initiatives. From a safety perspective, Philly Pizza and Grill has earned a reputation which exceeds that of a typical "Good Samaritan." Not only does the restaurant's presence on the dark streets of Georgetown offer a safe-haven to students wandering back from M street, but Mr. Kocak has been known to offer water and transportation to students in need.

During the BZA hearing that occurred on December 1, 2009 it became clear to the student representation present at the hearing, that the neighborhood's opposition to Philly Pizza and Grill stemmed more from the noise created by students as they walk home from bars on M Street and Wisconsin Avenue than any operation of the restaurant. The block that Philly Pizza and Grill is located on lies in between popular, late-night, student locations like Third Edition, Saloon, Rhino Bar and Pump House, Modern, Mr. Smith's, The Guards, Garrett's, Rugby, Chadwicks, Old Glory, as well as the arrival of a new club, George, on Prospect street. In order for students to return to campus they must walk back by the block that Philly Pizza and Grill is located on. In addition, it is important to note that the block that Philly Pizza and Grill is located on is also home or close to other late-night establishments like Quick Pita, Tuscany Café, Subway, and Domino's. The neighborhood association's decision to pinpoint Philly Pizza and Grill as the source of noise in the area is completely off base.

As the elected voice of the over 6,000 students on campus, we believe that Philly Pizza and Grill is a staple of our community, a protector of our students, and is the unfair target of noise complaints. Closing down this restaurant will have vast deleterious effects on thousands of members of the Georgetown community.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

District of Columbia

CASE NO.

18027

EXHIBIT NO.

44

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