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**Sarah and Steven Trauben
3819 Morrison Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015**

District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 200-S
Washington, DC 20001

January 9, 2012

RE: BZA Case # 18296

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of the Special Exception application of the Merlis family who reside at 3825 Morrison St. NW, two houses west of us on Morrison Street. The Merlises have done a wonderful job rehabilitating a run-down property that functioned as a probable illegally run rooming house for many years. Their improvements benefit the entire neighborhood.

We understand that a few neighbors have raised concerns about the appearance of the driveway and the deck structure and that they are demanding that the driveway be reduced to one parking space and to have the area landscaped in accordance with their wishes. We are very opposed to having these neighbors dictate their sense of aesthetics on the Merlises. We and many other neighbors in this immediate neighborhood believe that the Merlis driveway and deck area are completely in keeping with the character of our neighborhood and we know that they will landscape the area in very good taste as they have the rest of the property. We are completely perplexed about what is really happening.

Please note that in our neighborhood most of the corner properties which do not have alley access have parking pads and garages located facing the street. Directly across Morrison Street from the Merlises is just such an arrangement. Because the Merlises are only one block from the commercial district, street parking is severely limited and the double parking space they have created is of benefit to them and to us all. We hope that the BZA will do the sensible thing and overlook the puzzling decision of the ANC and allow the Merlises to keep the area as is and to complete their construction without being supervised by their complaining neighbors.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

EXHIBIT NO.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18296
EXHIBIT NO. 38

It has been mentioned to us by passers-by that we have one of the nicest houses on the block, and with this perspective, we find the argument of the other neighbors to be utterly ridiculous. The house between ours and the Merlises is really the "elephant in the room." We would ask that the zoning inspectors or the supervisors on the case come to see the startling contrast in the neighborhood when viewing the house between our properties. It is mindboggling how the neighbors can be making a fuss over the beautiful improvement to our neighborhood as a result of the Merlises' tasteful work, while remaining silent about this other home, if appearance is the issue. The adjacent property is dilapidated, poses infestation concerns and is hazardous to passers-by to name just a few issues. And, yet, these neighbors say nothing about this home which is much more than simply a terrible eyesore. Our 12-year old son accurately views this house outside his bedroom window and refers to it as "the haunted house." Even one of the neighbors who is in opposition to the Merlises' work can also view this dilapidated structure out their back window. Therefore, we wonder what the real issue is with the opposition to the neighborhood. Please have this in mind when considering this case.

Thank you for considering our voice in this matter.



Sarah Trauben



Steven Trauben