

18327

## R O N A L D K I N G

4700 Meade Street, NE Washington, DC 20019-3946  
 Telephone 202-889-2960 Cellular 202-557-6688 Email rking9644@aol.com

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March 6, 2012

Government of the District of Columbia  
 Board of Zoning Adjustment  
 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
 Suite 200/210 South  
 Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am submitting this letter as testament to my unabashed and enthusiastic support of the application of The Fishing School, pending before the Board of Zoning Adjustment, which I understand will be on the March 20, 2012 hearing agenda.

I would like that this letter clarify my position in a petition I believe you may have, including my name, which was signed by neighbors on my block and me, which was circulated by neighbor Mr. Curtis Sands.

Each neighborhood has its unique culture. Our neighborhood of single family homes is suburban-like and not dense like some neighborhoods in the city where parking is at a premium. Finding parking and being able to park in front of ones home is not a problem. In fact, when I moved to my home several years ago and would arrive home from work, if a guest of a neighbor happened to be parked in front of my house, neighbors would call out to me that they would immediately have the person move the car, until I protested enough times that I did not mind and that there was ample parking.

Parking is never a problem in our neighborhood. When I entertained upwards of 100 family members and friends for a Memorial Day cook-out, I asked my guests in the invitation if they would park in the adjacent blocks so as to not inconvenience the neighbors on my block, and they complied. Only one guest arrived by METRO – the Deanwood METRO Station being one block away – and parking was not a problem for anyone.

My neighbors and I signed the petition of Mr. Sands because he presented it to us as a means to register his concern with The Fishing School that he be able to park in front of his house and to garner some type of arrangement. Some neighbors signed without even reading the entire petition. Even though I expressed my concern with the language, I signed the petition, when Mr. Sands assured me that he planned to attend the hearing to say that we did not oppose the project but only wanted to ensure that we would not be inundated with parking.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
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 CASE NO. 18327  
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Indeed, all of us on the block happily signed consent forms when The Extreme Makeover Edition sought our approval for a 24 hour a day, 7 day reconstruction of The School, and many neighbors volunteered to assist. The episode appeared on the ABC television network. Even before the reconstruction, I circulated a petition that all of my neighbors on the block signed, with the exception of one, to have a speed bump located on the block. I sought this because, at times, some cars do not obey the stop signs at either corner, and children frequently play in and cross the street. We got the speed bump. This is the type of neighborhood where toys are left outside in the yards and neighbors visit each other on their porches. We greet each other by name.

Since the initial petition signing, Mr. Givs of The Fishing School has reached out to us and met with us at The School to present plans for the much-needed parenting center which include parking in the rear of the proposed facility. In fact, the building is situated directly across from The School on the northwest corner of 48<sup>th</sup> and Meade Street. This is significant because the two blocks of the west side of 48<sup>th</sup> Street from Meade to Minnesota Avenue are always empty! The METRO users, who choose not to pay to park on the station parking lot, park on the east side of 48<sup>th</sup> Street, adjacent to the Ron Brown Middle School in the 4800 block. They choose not to park on the west side of the street, where the proposed facility is to be situated because of residential parking restrictions. Our property lots are large and there are only two houses along that two-block stretch of 48<sup>th</sup> Street from Meade to the METRO at Minnesota Avenue. Therefore, in addition to the parking to be situated on the grounds of the new facility, any staff and visitors would also be able to park along side the facility, on 48<sup>th</sup> Street. It is also important to note that The Fishing School serves neighborhood children and most walk to and from school. The proposed facility would serve neighbors, also.

During the meeting the neighbors had with Mr. Givs, it became evident that Mr. Sands would actually oppose the project because of his unrealistic demand that he always be allowed to park in front of his door on the public street. As I write this letter, there are exactly two vehicles parked in the whole 4700 block of Meade Street, and Mr. Curtis' car is parked in front of his door.

I wanted to take the time to write this letter because it would be a shame to have the noble plans and much needed services of this project delayed one minute due to non-existent parking problems. We have in our neighborhood a 65% school drop-out rate and an adult third grade reading level of 50.2 %. The programs envisioned by The Fishing School for this proposed project are very much needed. I offer my whole-hearted support for this project and encourage you to grant your approval.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald King