

DESIGN 1

5 February 2014

BZA 18669

DIVA DOGS
4824 MacArthur Blvd NW
Washington DC 20007

Boarding Application

1312

Supplemental Submission for 25 February 2014 Hearing

During the initial BZA hearing for the case, in December, we were directed to obtain acoustical data for the property. The testing was done on 4 February 2014 and states "barking inside boarding rooms would have no impact on neighboring houses." The full report along with the engineer's resume is attached.

Summary

This case has been on-going for several months. In keeping with the Codes and the desire to be good neighbors, the owners have committed to the following:

- 1 Windows and doors will always be closed
- 2 Dogs will not be kept in the rear yard
- 3 Boarding will occur only in the front rooms of 2nd floor & basement
- 4 A maximum of six dogs will be boarded at any time
- 5 An attendant will be at property when boarding is occurring
- 6 They will not walk dogs on Reservoir Road

The Office of Planning and the Zoning Administrator have ruled that the application is in keeping with the Code. ANC 3D was totally misled by the vehement nature of a nearby neighbor, who claimed that boarding would destroy the neighborhood with excessive barking and dog waste. As a result of the diatribe, the ANC voted to oppose the application. Excessive barking is not an issue, see attached report. Dog waste will be removed weekly by a contracted vendor as outlined in original application.

Based on the stated commitments and the existing conditions, where the inside of exterior walls have been covered with sound absorbing foam, we hereby request that the application be approved. Thank you for your complete consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



David Cumins Mitchell Architect
Authorized Agent for Mr. Ricks

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18669
EXHIBIT NO. 40

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4836 MACARTHUR BLVD NW

WASHINGTON DC 20007

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18669
EXHIBIT NO. 40

ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS

February 4, 2014

David Mitchell Architect

Design 1

RE Diva Dogs Boarding Application 4824 MacArthur Blvd NW BZA 18669

Dear David

Precision sound measurements were made at 4824 MacArthur Blvd NW Washington DC on February 4, 2014 with a type 1 sound level meter calibrated and traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The purpose of the testing was to evaluate dog barking from Diva Dogs as part of their application for boarding as it may impact residences behind the building and across the alley. Boarding is proposed in the basement level front room and 2nd floor front room with no more than three dogs in each room. Both rooms are buffered from the back of the building by rooms with doors. Sound absorbing panels have been added to the walls of these rooms. A medium size dog was induced to bark inside the building in the proposed rooms for boarding and the level was measured at 100decibels A scale (100dBA) in the room. This would be rated as loud barking.

The ambient noise in the alley averaged about 53dBA and was a combination of traffic, children playing at the River School and ventilation equipment on the roof of other buildings. This level went up to 65dBA with the passing of airplanes and helicopters. This is a typical suburban sound level for this area. The tests were made at 2:30PM. The barking could not be heard in the alley when the dog barked in either room. The alley is about 25' from the grooming building and the alley is about 15' wide. Houses are about 25' from the alley. The DCR regulations 2701 for noise use dBA as maximum limits for noise at property lines with 65dBA as a maximum during daytime hours and 60dBA during nighttime hours.

The testing showed that the barking as proposed at the existing grooming facility has no impact on the neighbors and complies with the DCR for noise control. Even at night with lower background sound levels, the tests showed that any barking from inside the boarding rooms would be so low that it would have no impact at all in the neighbors' houses.

George Spano



Senior Acoustical Consultant

5115 MacArthur Blvd. NW Washington DC 20016 tel 202 244-7171

GEORGE SPANO

SENIOR CONSULTANT

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

37 Years: Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics and Physics, Windham College, 1974

AFFILIATIONS

ASA - Acoustical Society of America; INCE - Institute of Noise Control Engineering; ASH - American Society of Heating, ACRE - Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineers; NSCA - National Systems Contractors Association; ICIA - International Communications Industries Association

QUALIFICATIONS

George Spano has served Polysonics Corp. for 37 years, and has published the United States Navy (NAVFAC) specification entitled Architectural Acoustics, as well as the Courtroom Technology Manual, for the Administrative Office of the US Courts. Mr. Spano provides expert analysis and designs for interior acoustics, environmental noise mitigation, vibration analysis and control, and electronic communications systems; and has served in principal consulting capacity and project manager for countless Federal, State and Local projects.



REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS:



SMITHSONIAN OF NATURAL HISTORY; WASHINGTON, DC

Polysonics provided comprehensive design and project management services for the Smithsonian of Natural History Museum in Washington, DC. These services included acoustical noise and reverberation analysis, interior acoustics evaluations and the design of all sound reinforcement systems.



NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE; CHANTILLY, VA

Mr. Spano provided the acoustical and AV design for the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, VA. This project was so confidential that there was no direct client contact, and the needs assessment was based on our previous experience with these types of projects. The NRO campus is in the Dulles airport flight path, so Polysonics measured the aircraft noise and coordinated the design of the spandrels and roof for noise control. Acoustic design for the the auditorium and meeting rooms was also included.



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH; BETHESDA, MD

Providing multi-discipline services for 10+ projects on an ongoing basis. Services provided include mechanical system design for noise control, finite element vibration analysis and designs for vibration isolation in laboratory/instrumentation spaces, interior acoustics and noise isolation designs and audiovisual system designs for auditoria and meeting spaces.



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