
From: Lara Schwartz [lara.h.schwartz@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:16 AM
To: Reba, Lee Brian (ANC 3C01)
Subject: Nando's

Lee Brian-

I'm writing to say I agree with your vote on Nando's. Though I'm a vegetarian and thus won't go there, I believe that

- (A) Empty store fronts are a bigger problem than "too many restaurants;"
- (B) A 7-11 is not a good fit for our neighborhood, particularly because our locally-run Manhattan Market can't compete with a national conglomerate;
- (C) Our neighborhood doesn't support most retail stores (though Wylie Wagg is a pleasant surprise); and
- (D) Woodley Park's mediocre tourist restaurants could use competition. I think it's telling that Cafe Paradiso's ownership opposes the new restaurant. That place is a stark reminder of the symbiotic relationship between big hotels and terrible food.

Instead of trying to fight the market we should be encouraging our neighborhood to blossom as a food destination.

I do hope that Nando's gives something back to our community as Sorriso and Chipotle do, supporting Oyster-Adams. Chipotle, an even larger chain that is clearly fast food, has a devoted neighborhood following thanks in part to their smart choice to support the school.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Lara Schwartz
Woodley Place