

Hi

I'm the owner of Cafe Paradiso at 2649 Connecticut Ave. NW Wash. DC in Woodley Park and I'm writing in opposition to Nando's restaurant application for a variance and lifting the cap on restaurants in Woodley Park. We have been a family owned restaurant for the past 25 plus years and we worked very hard to succeed in spite of odds against independent small business through hard work and raise our families, we contribute by being members of the community for the past 25 years. We can not compete against the national chains buying power and advertisement power, although we deliver superior food, service and atmosphere.

Nando's will be a clear danger to the small and independent entrepreneurs by raising rents on all and driving us out of business, by taking market share in an already saturated block that has over 30 food serving businesses in one block by overwhelming the alley with more delivery trucks, more trash, more noise and rats, an environmental negative impact any way you look at it.

Woodley Park is struggling as is with decline in hotel occupancy at the Marriott and Omni Shoreham Hotels due to the convention hotel and other parts of the city.

An approval of lifting the 25% cap is a detriment to more than 60 or more families that own and work hard to achieve the American Dream of joining or remain in the middle class.

We have followed the rules. They should.

We have employees who make a living wage and salaries that allows them to buy homes, raise kids and families and contribute in ways that the fast food chains like Nando's can never contribute. We train future entrepreneurs, cooks, chefs and even students making tips and pay taxes far exceeding anything these national chains contribute or claim. Please reject the application and save the business and diversity of Woodley Park.

Our lively hood and future depends on your decision.

Thank you

Salim Zaytoun

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