BZA 16443

Statement on Medical Need by Applicant's Sister Ellen Kraus

1. My brother, long-time Newark St., N.W., resident Rainer K. Kraus, has been increasingly devastated by diabetes since his early 30's. He is now 62.

2. I have assisted him daily since early 1994 when he suffered gas gangrene in his left leg, from the diabetes. The gas gangrene threatened to kill him. His doctors told him he had no choice but amputation of the left leg, if he did not wish to die.

3. During 1994, as he was trying to learn to use a prosthesis, he suddenly needed to undergo an emergency operation to remove an abscess, in the muscle of his neck, that was causing a sudden life-threatening infection. A mistake during the surgery caused a stroke precipitating loss of functioning of his dominant right hand and diminished use of his left hand. This consequence, as well as the deterioration of his vision (he is now legally blind), ruined the chances of his successfully using a prothesis, thus confining him to a bed-ridden and wheelchair-bound existence requiring the assistance of visiting nurses, medical home health aides, physical therapists, and at-home helpers. He is now 100 percent disabled.

4. Parking problems are very severe on Newark St., in the 2900 block, one-half block from the heart of Cleveland Park's shopping area of stores, restaurants, pubs, library, and first-run Uptown Theater. Often, one has to park 1 to 3 blocks away from his house, when visiting to help.

5. Because of his medical conditions cited above (and including diabetes-related heart-function deficits) he is requesting a medical variance to allow a continued use of the parking pad as it exists.

6. A neighbor is questioning the legality of the parking space extension and is asking that he only be allowed to keep the original 1976 parking pad. But Mr. Kraus' medical condition has changed drastically since 1976, when he was still able to take care of all his needs himself.

7. Parking on the street is so poor there needs to be not only a place for his primary live-in caretakers to use, but also a place for the constant medical-care and other care-givers he requires for staying alive, to have available during their daily or thrice-weekly visits.

8. The parking pad was extended to its present length in 1993. There was no objection to this extension, by DCRA, until 7 months ago. That is, there was no objection by DCRA as to the length for more than five years. There has been no objection from the public in the five years, with the exception of one neighbor.

I grew up with my brother in a house near 2964 Newark St., at the corner of Newark Street and Highland Place. From those years and more recently in continuously visiting my brother, I know that the parking at 2964 is consistent with parking in the neighborhood.

Ellen E. Kraus — Ellen E. Kraus
Sister, Medical Guardian, Power of Attorney

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BZA
CASE No. 16443
EXHIBIT No. 22

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16443
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