My name is Arthur W. Lewis. I live at 1446 Jonquil Street, N.W. and have lived at this address since June 1987. I am retired from various positions in the US Navy, the US diplomatic service and the private sector.

My house is located on the West Side of the alley and directly North of the rear of Tifereth Israel (TI). My property is ten feet from the rear property line of TI.

In my retirement I have had ample and sufficient time to observe the daily activities that take place at TI. There is much activity in the alley each day. Cars, vans, delivery trucks and other types of vehicles come and go every day. Groups of children accompanied by monitors pass up and down the alley. There is also a summer program with infinitely more children who also use the alley and are generally unmonitored in crossing Jonquil Street in order to participate in activities on the Recreation Field on the North side of Jonquil St

The use of the alley by vehicles associated with TI can sometimes be most aggravating to motorists trying to use the alley. Some drivers of vehicles associated with TI Park in the alley and leave the vehicle or huge food and other types of delivery trucks block the alley as they make deliveries, polluting both the air and the noise levels. These blockages have sometimes lasted for nearly one hour. Unsuspecting motorists attempting to traverse the alley have found themselves blocked and forced to back-up all the way to Jonquil St. and creating a traffic hazard for vehicles going East or West on Jonquil St.

The use of the alley by vehicles and children associated with TI programs creates noises that are heard throughout my residence. The canyon-like environment of the alley accenuates these noises. Additional traffic and children in the alley will only make this problem a much more serious one and will reduce my ability to enjoy my property.

In the proposed additional use of the alley I can see no benefit to my neighbors, all property owners and citizens of the District of Columbia or to me

Of significant importance is the fact that neighborhood children use the Southern portion of the alley up to the North-South intersecting alley to walk to and from the local Public School mornings and afternoons. After school and on holidays and weekends many of the neighborhood children ride their bicycles in the alley. More traffic in the alley can only endanger these young children.

In sum and to conclude, I oppose BZA Application #16556 and strongly urge The Commissioners no to approve the requested Special Exception.

BZA
CASE No. 16556
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
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