June 08, 2000

Ms. Jerily R. Kress
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Re: BZA Application No. 16570

Dear Ms. Kress:

I have two children enrolled at Tucker's Day Care Center. Since the children have been at the center, Ms. Kress, I have observed that:

* The children are well cared for
* The staff are caring and proficient
* The facility is always clean, neat, and orderly, and
* The children are learning academic skills to prepare them for Kindergarden.

TDC always puts the children first. They work with parents with special circumstances. Recently, my children had to stop attending because I have been unemployed. TDC is holding Eric and Erica's spaces. They call me often to see how successful I have been in finding a job. I appreciate their concern.

I fully support the expansion of TDC and its efforts to help the community.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. E. Brooks

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16570
EXHIBIT NO.79A2

COPY

To: Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment

My name is Austin Lawerence, I'am a concerned father that has a child who attends Tuckers Daycare Center, and I am writing this letter to say that I have been very pleased with the care that my child has received since she has been attending the center, she has progressed in many way's, and I wish for her to remain at the center until she's ready for school. Therefore I am in full support of Mrs. Tucker and her staff.

Sincerely
Austin Lawerence
Austin Lawerence

NICOLE HAMILTON
1525 CONGRESS PL SE
(202) 373-1123

COPY

Ms. Jerily R. Kress
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington D.C.

RE: Case 16570

My name is Nicole Hamilton and I am writing this letter letter in support of my employer Mrs. Bertha Tucker. I was sent to Tucker's Daycare Center two (2) years ago under the United Planning Organization Program (UPO). I had been sent to numerous worksites and was never satisfied until I was sent to Tucker's Daycare Center. When I first came to the daycare I was not comfortable with the idea of working with small children, but Mrs. Tucker made me feel very secure and I have learned to adapt to younger children. Mrs. Tucker has not only help me in the job field, she has also been very helpful to me in my personal life. She has not only been my boss, but a good friend to me. When I come to work at the center, I can truly say that I am coming to a place where the owner does not just care about herself and her business, but cares for the children in the center as well as her employers. Mrs. Tucker treats everyone who enters her center with respect and is willing to help anyone in need. I can truly say that Mrs. Tucker has helped me a lot in the past two years. She has taught me how to be more independent and responsible. Since being at TDC I have attended various workshops on child education and can honestly say that I have learned a lot of things about children I thought I knew, but in reality what I knew was wrong.The workshops have not only helped me to better work with children in the center, but have also showed me the proper ways to handle my own daughter at home. I have Mrs. Tucker to thank for that. I also want to thank her for her assistance in helping me to acquire my Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). Mrs. Tucker has been a great influence on me in the past two years, and as really helped many children. I wish Mrs. Tucker nothing but the best and strongly approve her application # 16570.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hamilton

Nicole Hamilton

COPY

To whom it may concern I'am writing this letter in support of Bertha Tucker and her staff at Tuckers Day Care Center. I am a neighbor to the center and myself and my husband support Mrs. Tucker to the fullest with what she is doing with the center because we know she only has the best interest in mind for all the children that receive care at the center.We have lived at 3216 11th P.L. , for many years and the center is one of the few positive things that has improved our neighborhood in many years, so therefore we are very much in support of the daycare because it is a very positive thing.

Sincerely
Brenda and William Fuller

Brenda & William Fuller

Ms. Jerily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Re: BZA Application No. 16570

Dear Ms. Kress,

My children have been in the care of Mrs. Bertha Tucker for about 3 years. During this time she has provided excellent care and support for me and my children. Therefore as a parent I support the approval of application No. 16570 concerning Tuckers Day Care Center located at 3215 11th P.L. S.E. Washington D.C. 20032.

Thank You
Lisa R. Treadwell

YVONNE CANADY
3064 STANTON ROAD, SE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20020
202-610-2548

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regard to the Tucker Day Care and Early Learning Center located at 3215 - llth Place in SE Washington, D. C. My grandson, Ramon Jackson, has been attending day care and after care facilities at the Tucker Day Care Center since October 1999. The center has more than adequately provided for the academic and socialization needs of my grandson during that time. The center has proven to be very conducive to learning and is well supervised by its' director and staff. The center and its' facilities are very convenient to my place of employment (St. Elizabeth's hospital), while it has played a very integral part in the overall development of my grandson. I am very satisfied with both the care and the facilities offered by the director and staff of the Tucker Day Care and after care Center.

We (my grandson and I) thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion about the Tucker Day Care and Early Learning Center and the part it has played in our lives.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Yvonne Canady

I visited and toured the center. I found that caretakers were professional and attentive. The children were controlled and pleasant. The children are divided into age groups. The various activities for each age group are suitable, i.e., the infants were watching TV, the 2 year olds seem to have been in quiet time, and the 3/4 year olds were being taught the alphabets. The outside play area has the plastic play toys (swings, slides, jungle bars, etc.) and the ground is covered with mulch, making the area spongy and extremely safe. The play area is secured by a fence, and is very clean. A ramp is in place for disabled persons.

The addition was furnished, yet, unused, pending the outcome of the hearing. All inside areas were spotless and organized. There aren't many daycare centers in this area, therefore, the location is convenient, especially, since the majority of the children are from the neighborhood; in walking distance.

I support the center 100%. I see it as a plus for our community, whereas, it has employed Ward 8 residents, and the parents have a legal, safe and well run facility to take their children. The children do not disturb the residents, and some of the immediate residents watch out for them. I travel that street, frequently, and I have not run into any traffic problems.

Sincerely,

Sandra "SS" Seegars

Sandra "SS" Seegars

SANDRA "SS" SEEGARS
FOR WARD 8 CITY COUNCIL
1107 SAVANNAH ST., SE,
WASHINGTON DC 20032
202-561-VOTE



Tucker's Day Care Center
3215 15th St., SE,
Washington DC 20032

COPY

Dear Ms. Tucker,

I live in the 1100 block of Savannah St., SE, around the corner form your center. After interviewing residents in the 3200 and 3300 blocks of 11th Pl., 3200 block of 12th St., 1100 and 1200 blocks of Alabama Ave., and 1100 block of Savannah St., there was overwhelming *support for the day care.*

There were two households that suggested there was a traffic problem during the AM and PM drop-offs, and that should be remedied. Perhaps, the police will give special permission to let the parents drop them off in the back. Call Commander Winston Robinson at the Seventh District Police Department, 202-698-1400. One of the persons in the aforementioned sentence, who has not taken a tour of the day care center, thought the number of children you desire may be too many. If the law permits the number of children you are requesting, that concern would be removed.

Some of the pluses from the community:

- The center has hired persons from the community.
- The public area, in front and back of the center, is kept clean.
- There are no disturbances from the center.
- The children are well behaved.
- The majority of the immediate neighbors said there is no difference since the center opened, and they have no problems with the center being there.

- A few complained about the traffic when children are dropped off and picked up.
- One is concerned about 56 being too many for the space and present caretakers.

beautifully equipped playground. I arrived at 9:30 a.m. I stayed for three hours, never did I see traffic and there was plenty of parking directly in front of *"Tucker's Childcare Center".* I sat on the front porch of the gated yard, overlooking the garden to watch the children play. Occasionally one of the children would come and talk with me. I can't tell you what a pleasure it is speaking with such well mannered child.

My daughter and I would like to keep my grandson as close to home (*The Wingates)* as we possibly can, instead of having to enrolling him in a Prince George's County Maryland, (Ward 9) childcare center. Stop in "Tucker's Childcare Center" one day, I guarantee you will be impressed as much as we are. Please be advised, all I ever ask of the Zoning Commission is to... ***"Do The Right Thing!***

Respectfully,

Robin D. Jjames'
Commissioner ANC 8D05

Robin D. Ijames', Commissioner, ANC 8D05
4660 Martin Luther King Jr., Avenue, S. W.
Suite No. B607
Washington, D. C. 20032
(202) 563-6769

Monday, June 12, 2000

Jerily R. Kress, Director
The Board of Zoning Administration
441 Fourth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Reference: Tucker's Daycare
Case No.: 16570

Dear Ms. Kress;

As a mother to a 24 year old daughter and grandmother to a 4 year old grandson, I know all too well that... **"It Takes A Village To Raise A Child!!!" GOOD CHILDCARE** is **PRIORITY ONE,** but just like a **UNICORN,** it's practically non-existent

Therefore, in venturing to find **GOOD** Childcare, we first inquired close to home in S. W. Ward 8D, of the District of Columbia. Since my daughter attended "Big Mama's Daycare Center" in, S. W. Ward 8D, we checked there first, however, there were no openings.

In a casual conversation with other parent's, Tucker's Childcare, located in the neighboring community of Ward 8E was refereed. Of course being the **"PROUD GRANDMOTHER"** *that I am,* I called to schedule an appointment, however as the **"PROUD GRANDMOTHER"** *that I am,* I did not set a time or date, I believe in the element of surprise.

Several days later, upon arrival, I was shocked; **1)** the facility was immaculate there were security cameras in place, **2)** the children's library was very impressive, **3)** there were cute little toilets, urinals and sinks in the rest rooms, **4)** the children were saying the most beautiful grace, **5)** over a beautifully catered meal in the spacious dining room, **6)** the sleeping quarters was spacious, not a crumb on the floor anywhere, **7)** there were staff members everywhere and they were also the most nurturing childcare providers I've seen in a long time and **8)** the children were very happy playing on the

The Common Denominator

Monday, June 5, 2000

WARD 8 REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

GROWING PAINS FOR DAY CARE CENTER: Neighbors of the Tucker Day Care Center at 3215 11th Place SE are protesting the center's plans to expand the number of children it accepts from 26 to 55. The D.C. Zoning Commission will hear the case June 20. Melvin Sims, chairman of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E, said the day care's proposal to increase the number of children would overburden the neighborhood. "What we're opposing is the increase. The facilities are too small....We're not trying to close them down," he said. Sims also said expanding the center will cause increased traffic congestion. He said the center's neighbors are mostly senior citizens and most of the children enrolled at the center are overflow from Tucker's other center in Temple Hills, Md. Sims also complained of an alleged lack of control over children during recess times, which he said has disturbed neighbors.

Bertha Tucker, the center's owner, disputes the lack of supervision over children at her center. She said the children are just acting like children. Tucker also said expanding her center won't cause congestion. "These are welfare mothers trying to work...they don't have cars. I don't know what the beef is," she said. Tucker said her center has passed every inspection and that the city regulates how many children she can take in. Day care centers are required to have 35 square feet of indoor space for every child they admit.

Sims said the current facility just isn't big enough to handle the growth. "From a public safety perspective it's not a very safe situation to put children in," he said.

Tucker said she has the support of the majority of neighbors and is confident that the zoning board will rule in her favor. "These people are going to go to the hearings and testify for me," she said.

Proposed Expansion of Southeast Day Care Poses Concerns for Residents

By Keenan Suares
The Community News

For four years, Southeast resident Brian Dotson has endured the constant screeching of tires from parents' cars as they drop off and pick up their children at Tucker's Day Care, 3215 11th Place, S.E.

But if Bertha Tucker, owner of Tucker's Day Care, receives a permit for expansion, Dotson's street would be congested with even more cars in the morning and afternoon. Tucker plans to increase the number of children from 29 to 59 and the size of her staff from three employees to eight.

Dotson, of Savannah Street in Southeast, opposes the expansion of Tucker's Day Care because it would increase traffic in the neighborhood and reduce the number of available parking spaces for homeowners.

Tucker, who has operated her day care for four years, denies there is a parking problem on Savannah Street and 11th Place. She said there has been only one parking incident in her four years of running the business.

"Last year, I spotted a commercial truck that was illegally parked in front of the day care," she said. "At first, I was going to write the driver a letter and leave it on his windshield wiper. But my husband told me to speak to the driver instead. I saw the driver and asked him to park further up because he was a commercial truck. I never had a problem with that truck driver again."

Another concern, Dotson said, is the behavior of the children. He said he has witnessed them playing and leaving litter on his neighbors' property. However, Tucker claims the children Dotson saw misbehaving weren't from her day care because the day care is fenced in. She also has surveillance cameras in each room of the day care center.

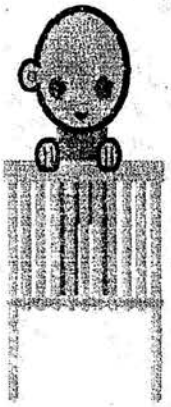
Lois Childs, a Ward 8 resident, supported the expansion of the day care. She said she would rather see parents bringing children to Southeast for day care instead of people from other states coming into Southeast to buy drugs.

"I think when we're talking about a day care center, you are looking at children who will take care of you in the future," Childs said. "You can't penalize a day care center if the parents pick up their children in the morning and afternoon. It shouldn't be [considered] a hindrance."

Another Ward 8 resident, Roderick Liggens, of Bonini Street, agreed. "We need proper day care service. If you talk to the children, they will remember to pick up the trash. They will remember the guy on the steps who said to pick up the trash."

Mel Simms, chairperson of 8E Advisory Neighborhood Commission, will represent the community on May 24 during the Board of Zoning's hearing concerning the expansion permit.







Prepared By:
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