COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

November 8, 2000

DCO NOV -8 A12:42

Director, Office of Zoning
Sheila Cross-Reid, Chair
441 - 4th Street, NW, Ste. 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Case # 16622, Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

Dear Ms. Cross-Reid:

I am writing to express my opposition to the request by Sasha Bruce Youthwork, 1022 Maryland Avenue, N.E., pursuant to DCMR 3104.1, for a special exception under section 335.1 to expand the operation of their youth residential care home facility from 10 to 15, a 50% increase in their operations. This facility is located in an R-4 area and already negatively impacts the surrounding residential neighborhood.

My neighbors have contacted me with respect to this application and the problems they have described have been ongoing over a long period of time. They have described problems with noise and litter surrounding this facility, problems with teenage alcohol consumption, rowdy and disruptive behavior, and improper storage of garbage leading to a rat harborage problem. Most importantly, there is a strong sense in the community, which I share, that the current staff at the facility is not adequately handling the problems with the 10 teenagers they now serve. I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny this request until the facility accumulates a better track record of addressing the problems outlined above.

Furthermore, my constituents have also indicated that, based on their research, the facility's current Certificate of Occupancy provides for a purpose of "Youth Rehabilitation Home for 10 Residents". However, the neighbors indicate that there are all sorts of other programs being run out of this facility, especially during afterschool hours. This concerns me greatly and I will be contacting the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to initiate a compliance inquiry on that matter, but I wanted the Board to know that there are serious compliance issues which need to be resolved before the granting of any zoning variance to expand the operations at this facility.

I hope that the Board will deny the request for a special exception for Sasha Bruce Youthwork and allow the community to work with them to address the legitimate concerns which they have raised.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ambrose

Sharon Ambrose
Councilmember - Ward 6

BZA
Case No. 16622
Exhibit No. 41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16622
EXHIBIT NO.41