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RE: BZA Case No. 16643-----Georgetown Flea Market

Jan. 29, 2001

One of Two

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director, BZA
441 4th St. NW, Suite 210 S
Washington, Dc 20001
Fax (202) 727-6072

Dear Ms. Kress:

I write in support of the application for a variance that would permit the Flea Market to continue its current operations at Hardy School in Georgetown.

I take the liberty of attaching a copy of a letter I sent to the Mayor on this subject in October of 1999. My views today are just as strong. Frankly, I am astonished that so much time and energy should be devoted to closing down an institution that has operated for 13 years at Hardy School and that manifestly enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the people who live in this community.

I see no public interest that would be served by forcing the market to close. On the contrary, closing the market, which generates revenue for the school and the city, would be one more business and consumer unfriendly step by a bureaucracy that does not adequately recognize the importance of generating revenue and employment for DC in competition with suburban jurisdictions---and I am ignoring here the entire matter of the innocent enjoyment by Washingtonians of their surroundings.

Within the powers of your office, I hope you will do everything you can to permit the market to continue its Sunday operations at Hardy School'

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Wendt

BZA
Case No. 16643
Exhibit No. 43

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16643
EXHIBIT NO.43

Allan Wendt
3234 Volta PL NW
Washington, DC 20007-2731
Tel (202) 965-2124 Fax (202) 965-2129

October 17, 1999

Honorable Anthony A. Williams
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Fax 727-6561

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I first came to Georgetown in 1963 and have witnessed its ups and downs over the years. The Sunday Flea Market at Hardy School is one of the more refreshing and enjoyable activities I have experienced in the neighborhood. I thus wish to express my strong objections to the various moves afoot, notably from your Zoning Administrator Michael Johnson, to close the Georgetown Flea Market at the end of this month. I know you are dedicated to making the District and its numerous neighborhoods more attractive not only to residents but to outsiders as well. This market has brought pleasure and satisfaction to many people throughout the area, a livelihood to the vendors who sell their wares there, and revenue to the city. It operates only on Sunday and thus can hardly have any adverse impact on the Hardy School. The lot would otherwise go unused.

Mr. Mayor, there is no compelling reason to close this market. A relatively small number of narrow minded people are waging an ill-conceived campaign against it. The whole affair reminds me of the outcry among a few residents and a number of city officials against the advent of sidewalk cafes in the District. All sorts of ills would befall the city, it was said, if these immoral institutions were permitted. Fortunately, the Mayor at the time brought common sense to the issue. He overruled his officials, saying anything that brought innocent enjoyment to Washingtonians and revenue to the city was fine with him. Can you imagine Washington today without its sidewalk cafes?

I hope you will do everything in your power to rescue the market. We like it, we want to keep it. Please be so kind as to inform me of where this matter stands and what needs to be done to permit the market to continue to enhance our enjoyment of the city.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Wendt

cc. Honorable Jack Evans; Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton; DC Schools Superintendent Arlene Ackerman; Zoning Administrator Michael Johnson