Diane DuBois
Olde Furniture Bargains / Antique Delights!
P.O. Box 61
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January 23, 2001

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

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RE: Georgetown Flea Market, BZA Application #16643

Dear Director Kress,

I am a long standing dealer at the Georgetown Flea Market, held every Sunday in the Hardy School parking lot, at 34th and Wisconsin Streets, N.W. Although I am not a resident of the District, I would like to share my experiences with you. Weather permitting, I sell at the market every Sunday, and have dozens of conversations every Sunday with the customers of that market.

I have been asked countless times if the market will be shut down. Of course, I can't answer that question. That answer is ultimately up to you and your department. My answer is that I don't know. The response I always receive from the person who asks is, "I really hope not." I have never had anyone reply, "I hope this place shuts down." Many customers go on to tell me they just don't know what they will do without the Georgetown Market as a part of their Sunday activities.

If you have never visited our market, you have missed one of DC's treasures! Our customers are a wonderful mix of local residents, students and professors, diplomats and their families, politicians, celebrities, media pundits, all the other wonderful people who live and work in the DC metro area, and tourists. I have conversed with many customers who have found the market via tourist guides, and find it to be a memorable part of their DC experience. We also have a dedicated regular customer base of dealers and collectors from all over the metro DC region, a fascinating and sophisticated mix of experts and buyers of every conceivable type of antique and collectible.

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And then, of course, there are the dealers who sell at Georgetown. We are a responsible mix of knowledgeable professionals and artists who come from a radius of about 200 miles, bringing with us fresh and fabulous merchandise from estates and auctions all over the East Coast, and/or original artworks. We collect sales tax for the District, and pay it to the management at the end of the day. We do not leave trash behind, as that is prohibited and would get us banned from the market. We make a small amount of noise in the morning when we set up, and in the evening when we tear down, with some clanging of tent poles. But at any time over the day, if you walk through the market, and stop, and listen, you will hear the happy hum of people enjoying themselves, conversing with friends old and new, while discovering treasures. And there always seems to be the sound of delight in the air, as friends and acquaintances greet each other.

This market is a huge asset to the District, now here so long there are people who can't remember when it didn't exist. The businesses surrounding the Hardy School are very well patronized by both our customers and dealers. I can see only good for everyone if the Georgetown Flea Market continues. I can not understand the sense behind prohibiting its continuation. If the market closes, there will be thousands of unhappy people in the District, more than a hundred displaced dealers, no more tourists roaming that area, no rental income for the Hardy School, no DC sales tax collected, and slower Sundays for the businesses surrounding the Hardy School.

Thanks very much for reading. I anticipate your decision with my fingers crossed for everyone's sake. Thanks, very much, again.

Sincerely,

Diane DuBois
Olde Furniture Bargains / Antique Delights!

cc via FAX: Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia