Sheila T. Milbourne
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Monday, February 26, 2001

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Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441-4th Street, North West Suite 210
Washington, District of Columbia 20001

Re: Application Number 16657
Power to Become Child Care Center

To All It Concerns:

I respectfully request that the application of Christian Praise Church for a special exemption to sponsor the **Power to Become ChildCare Center (PBCCC)** be denied.

This request is made pursuant to the minutes of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B (**ANC**) Meeting of December 16, 2000 where the ANC did not vote to approve Application Number 16657. Moreover, at its meeting on Saturday, January 20, 2001, the Commission and the citizenry voted that it is not in the best interest of the community for PBCCC to open in ANC7B.

Moreover, at its meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2001, the **Hillcrest Heights Civic Association (HHCA)** expressed its displeasure at the opening of a child care facility on Alabama Avenue primarily because of traffic. In addition, the facet of being "a **good neighbor in a good neighbor neighborhood"**, was discussed.

BZA
Case No. 16657
Exhibit No. 31

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16657
EXHIBIT NO.31

In addition, this writer believes that the meeting to come to consensus sponsored by Christian Praise Church was not called in a timely manner nor was the citizenry invited. The following persons were invited with no provision for bringing guests with one person being asked to distribute the notice to the others.

Mrs. Seraile	36th Place
Mrs. Ashby	36th Place
Ms. Milbourne	36th Place
Mrs. Turner	Alabama Avenue
Mrs. Person	Alabama Avenue

Hence, it is without reservation that I ask that Application 16657 be denied.

Sincerely,

Sheila T. Milbourne

Sheila T. Milbourne

Appl. 16657

Sheila T. Milbourne
202-575-2479
202-365-1235

Monday, February 26, 2001

Hi Barbara,

I have totally read and partially tried to note text and grammatical errors. Page 4 was as far as I could go.

However, I find it significant to note that the document is grossly incomplete. The part of the meeting where Christianity and our "beliefs" in God has been omitted. The closure and/or conclusion of the meeting as well as a summation of the meeting are not included.

It is the opinion of this writer that the "inaccurate" attempt to transcribe – instead of summarize -- the minutes word for word is overwhelming. Moreover, these "minutes" give credence to our concerns about the readiness of the Christian Praise group to work within an organized framework that would allow for the successful execution of its proposed program.

Please, include the "minutes" of the February 3rd meeting in any new materials that you submit to the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Thanks for all you have done and are doing for your **Neighbors on the Peninsula.**

Application 16657

Date: **Saturday February 3, 2001**
Time: **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**
Place: **Christian Praise Church**
3628 Alabama Avenue
Washington, DC
Subject: **Peaceful Resolutions concerning the "Power To Become Day Care Center"**

We apologize for any misspelled names.

Min. Aaron: Again, I'm Minister Aaron Brooks and we're calling to order the meeting of the minds with the community of 36th place and Alabama Avenue we're here at Christian Praise Church holding our meeting. Present are community persons, myself, Pastor Andrus, Legal Counsel, Ms Kim Hall, my counsel. We are going through introductions now; again I'm Minister Aaron Brooks and we'll go clockwise around the room.

- Alba Sureal (Neighbor) Alva Seraile
- Barbara Ashby (Neighbor)
- Shiela Melborn (Neighbor) Sheila Milbourne
- Kimberly Hall (Accountant)
- Susan Bennett ("from the Law School of AU's Clinical Program's office. We were called to ask if maybe we could help everyone come to a resolution")
- Racheal Coyne ("I'm a law student, this is my last year and um, I'm just excited to have a case
- Stephanie Brower ("I'm a third year law student at AU and Rachel and I work together)
- "I'm Pastor Andrus and I welcome everybody and thanks for coming"

Min. Aaron: Also present is Deacon Jones he's sitting "incog-negro"? in the back and he is overseeing everything that going on.

Min. Aaron: Um, We're just kinda having lunch here, um. The basic um reason that we had this meeting, other than a court order is to, 1, um I felt that there was time um that we needed to have resolution and the only way we can have resolution is if we have some unity. If you look in the dictionary unity makes um specific reference to the quality of being one in spirit and sentiment and purpose having an adhesiveness, coherent ness and a harmony. This is all of our community all of our neighborhood all of our area, since we all live and work in the district right here in this neighborhood so we got to have some unity. umm, In addition to that we're gonna have a time limit here, we got started at about 1:00, or 10 after, we're gonna be outta here no later than 2:30 or 2:40. We're gonna be outta here no later than 2:30 or 2:40 um I'm going to let Ms Melborn, Ms Ashby and Ms Turner and all the folks from the community have their time and their say and then we'll just have a little roundtable discussion, very informal, see if we can come to some type of resolution and then we'll adjourn.

Ms. Milbourne
~~Neighbor~~: I have one comment: I don't think we should put a time limit on the meeting that is so critical

Min. Aaron: Well the thing is, I can't um.....

Milbourne
~~Neighbors:~~ We got all day!

Min. Aaron: But we don't (laugh) I'm not paying anybody to be here, so I can't force them to be here all day long, so I wanted to make sure that things were timed.

Min. Aaron: Ms. Turner, Good afternoon

Ms. Turner: Good afternoon .

(From Milbourne)

Min. Aaron: Also entering the meeting is Ms. Turner and she's going to introduce herself to everyone as everyone introduces themselves to her. We have sandwiches, juice and chips. You can partake if you like. If you want, I'll get you something to drink!

Ms Turner: No that's okay.

Min. Aaron: Are you sure? We have apple juice and grape!

Ms Turner: Thank you, ok Thank you.

~~Neighbor:~~ Barbara I noticed the meeting is being taped and I would like to know if we will be able to get a copy of the transcript.

Min. Aaron: Yes, I'm going to have it written and typed so that everyone will have a copy and If I don't drop it off personally at your home then I will mail it, as I did the other correspondence.

Min Aaron: Whew, okay we've had lunch. I'm feeling a little better, I don't know about anyone else. Um, we're at the point of beginning the meeting and the only other instructions that I have is if everyone could please identify themselves before we all start talking, um, so that we'll know that when we're writing the transcript out, who everyone is. We're going to start with Ms Turner, come on around the room.

Ms. Turner: My name is Karen Turner. I live at 3612 Alabama Avenue, I've lived there for 32 years.

Min. Aaron: Ms Turner, your concerns, we're just going to have a roundtable discussion and go through everyone's concerns and see if we can address them and what resolutions we can come to, if any.

Ms Turner: Yes Yeah well, my concern is that, in this block, there is just too much activity and I'm talking about 36th place traffic to 36th street. We have two churches and a day care center and now we're talking about another one and then we have a school that's just too much activity, too much. Always too much traffic, too much of everything!

Min. Aaron: Is that it Ms Turner?

Ms Turner: Yes Yeah, well, if you want me to tell you something else then I can tell you something else!

Min. Aaron: Those were good concerns Ms Turner we're gonna move on to Ms. Melborn. Milbourne

Ms Melborn: My name is Sheila Melborn, have I lived on 36th place for 26 years, I have 4 children all products of the District of Columbia School System, all college graduates and they all have good jobs, so they can help support their mother. I have some major concerns regarding opening another facility for children, uh, My first concern is the parking on the street, We live on a one way street and we have a school with a minimum of 42 regular personnel, if you add the support personnel that comes in during the day that makes it up to 62 people who are regularly inside this building on a day to day basis. There's Social Workers, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, two itinerate reading teachers, two itinerate math teachers, I can go on and on. The school building opens at 6:00am in the morning at 6:30 they start Space Program, Space Program lets out at 8:30am, school takes in at 8:40am. There are 570 children in that school, between 570 and 600. This is not a school in a neighborhood where a child can feasibly just walk to school because that's what he wants to do. Most of these parents drive their cars down the street, Since we were at the BZA, I counted on any given morning 300 hundred cars come down this street between 8:30am – 8:40am, some of them are not very cooperative, because they will stop in the middle of the street, take their child out, have the car idling, go into the school to deposit their child, then come back out. This creates a major noise hazard for Barbara, Alba and myself. Carolyn, who is not here

itinerant

cars

Alva

today, and Ms Braddock are the only other two people on this street. However, on the street where we get that noise is directly across from the entrance to the school and the children march around from the playground and go into this front door. We have Mr. Braddock, ~~who has just had~~, who has cancer, has a broken hip, who is in. We have that invalent, we have right behind my house, we have Mrs Burnstein, what's her name, Mrs Willowby, Mrs Willowby is home and bed bound and next to my house there is Mrs. Galloy and she is also limited in her ability to be mobile. All of that noise starts up, and it starts about 6am, ~~because~~ the custodial staff has to come in, you got, the security staff has to come in, the teachers for the am Space program has to come in. This is school that runs from 6 in the morning to 8 in the evening and then we're getting ready to bring 30 more people of some kind or another and then say 15 more cars. We have since, our trip to BZA, have a police officer assigned to this alley to ticket anybody who is not in a space, including your third parking space, ~~including that third parking space~~ and I don't know if anybody has spoken to you uh or not, but the police were out there yesterday in full force moving the traffic out of the alley and ticketing anybody who did not move uh immediately. In addition to that St. Timothy's have 100 or so of children up here on East Capitol Street, there is the Christ Christian Child Development Center. We have Ann Beers over here. We have the new Redeemed Child Care Center down at the bottom of the hill. We have a Child Care Center in the Baptist Church down at the bottom of the hill. We then have the Adventist Church, which is in the 3900 hundred block of Alabama Avenue and we are at 36. It also has a Day Care Center, and in the net block from the Adventist School, there is New Macedonia, that also has a Child Care Center. We in this community feel that we are enandated with people with special exemptions from DCA to come into our communities and bring their children. Significant here is that, most of the people who come into this community don't' live here anyway, so their appreciation for our community is not what we would consider good. It is not good at all. We had a Civic Association meeting this morning where we had 75 people ticketed in the past week for speeding up and down Alabama Avenue. That is a major safety factor for any children anywhere, a major safety factor. In Pastor Brooks specifications, it's not Brooks, Aaron!

Min Brooks: Minister Aaron

Ms Melborn: Okay! Minister! Uh, He says there's a library across the street. That library is several feet down from this school. We also need to understand that everyone of those Day Care Centers that I just recognized feed into that School everyday, to the point that the Elementary School has to schedule into the Library for it's children because all of the Day Care Centers around the area have to be accommodated there. We have a good Library, ~~but~~ it's not what I might consider an extremely large Library to accommodate everybody that it has to accommodate. But if you have to go down there between the months of February and March, the Library is so crowded that you are lucky if you can get into it. Many parents use the Library as a Babysitting Service also. But it's Science Fair Project Time. So, we have parents parked down the street, parents parked down Alabama Avenue, children running around send the baby outside to the playground. I repeat, the majority of these people, do not live in this neighborhood. Also let it reflect that we pay the second highest tax base in the city, and we get some of the worst services, ~~and~~ this is why we have to continue to come out and state how we feel and to state other things to for our neighbors, who are not mobile, their houses are spaced far apart so you don't have, you don't see a lot of people here. There are only 5 houses on this street and in two houses the people aren't mobile, ~~their~~ invalent. So this is our street here, we have Ms. Turner and Ms Ruby Person, Ms Person here and the next house is the fun camp from Christian Praise, the fun camp has not had any activity and I so utter these things to you so that you will know what we're dealing with in terms of the numbers. For those reasons also, and we have one police officer or we had one, now all of a sudden we have three, but we have one police officer assigned to this intersection and this one police officer is assigned from 8:15am – 9:00 and then he goes about his merry way. this week he'll be writing tickets up the street and up the alley, but generally goes along his merry way. We get another police officer out there at 2:45 to 3:45, "that's it!". Nobody else comes. But over here at Veers, in the afternoon on Monday they have the Saturday Stars, on Tuesday and Thursday they have the Air & Space Program, on Wednesday they have the tutorial program. They have a language program, they have a soccer program a football team and a basketball team. All of that

comes out of that school, that is a focus in this community, that school. People bring their children northwest and go into that school, I maintain, we are saturated with people who have special exemptions from zoning adjustments and none of them live in the community either, so you can't always put some more manure on the pile in the neighborhood, where you don't live, if you're not the person who has to contend with it, and I maintain that for those reasons and not because their any um ill feelings about the church and other things, I also have a major concern about the um shape of the facility there are broken windows over there, the step that leads to the kitchen area, the steps that lead to your area is broken, the steps are broken, the retaining wall has broken uh, bricks in it, there is nothing to separate the retaining wall from the parking lot. In the parking lot there are two large trees, so, if people, come in, I had came back and really looked after we had went to the meeting, ~~because~~ I had notice the trees ~~and~~ Ms. Ashby had notice but they have to go around the trees there's not a cement slab down there to place your trash cans and refuge cans on, ~~and~~ these are all kinds of things that make for the aesthetic look of the neighborhood uh there are the space out here that suppose to be the parking lot. When we had the snow, the week we came down for BZA, there was no way in God's country and God loves all the people in the world, there is way in God's country you could have gotten three cars in there without getting one stuck, ~~without getting one stuck~~. I am aware also that people do park across your apron, into your yard in the morning and that would cause another problem, cause people have been use to parking there for as long as Christian Praise has been here when Conrad Brooks opened this facility. I am about finished. If I think of anything else, I will let you know.

Ms Ashby: My name is Barbara Ashby, I live next door to the church, across from the alley. I have a tremendous concern about the facility over there. Um, first of all this is a residential neighborhood, and I agree with Ms Melborn that we have been swamped with churches, in fact this use to be a house here, this is a resident and then they bought the house next door, which they now want to turn it into a profit making business. Um, I think the business that they are trying to run, will exacerbate existing problems many of which um Ms Melborn has already talked about, uh we already have a lot of traffic congestion, because of the school that's here, we already have parking problems because of the school across the street, we experience three rush hours in this neighborhood, kids come in at 8, between 8 and 9 in the morning that's one rush hour, rush hour includes not only 36th place, which is a narrow one way street, with parking on both sides, it also means the alley adjacent to this church and adjacent to my house is also uh clogged up, the second rush hour is between 3 and 4, the third rush hour has to do with the after school programs. Ann Beers is a wonderful school, it has lots of after school programs, which end between, anywhere between 6 and 7 so that's the third rush hour, and during that rush hour the street is blocked the alley is blocked, um we have spent many years dealing with the principal of this school as well as the police to try to alleviate this problem they will send the police and they will ticket. A week later, the same problem is back.

Comment: So you're the major reason that I am totally opposed to this, is that, this church, under the former minister, had a day center in the house next door, I don't know if it was legal, but I doubt it, because we were never notified of it's opening, but um, so I know that having something there, exacerbates existing problems, that it created new problems because I have a garage with three parking spaces, in front of it, which is directly across from the backyard of the proposed day care center and the parents that came from the day care center would actually park their cars there and get out they would park in the alley, they were rude, they were impolite, so it has been, not pleasant , the thought of something like that opening up again is just horrible, the other thing I think which has been alluded to is that, many of , most of us in this neighborhood are elderly, retired people, so once school is in session, things quiet. I know that the proposed day care center wants to have buses or vans to take children on trips more noise. They also, now this is really shocking to all of us proposed to have day care on Friday evening til midnight, all day Saturday, and Saturday night til midnight. Now can/would you want to live in a community where children are being awaken in the middle of the night, 12 midnight, car doors making noise, children crying, in the middle of the night every Friday, and every Saturday, all day Saturday, Saturday is the only day it's really quiet around here, Sunday it's quiet after all the churches let

out, but that is a nightmare and I also don't think it's good child care, waking children up in the middle of the night and frankly, I don't trust that that's what this facility plans to do. The original proposal was to have all weekend care twenty four hours, but they were told they could not do that, and so the proposal went in as midnight, but I don't' really believe that's really going to happen. Um.. the only thing, I just had other negative unpleasant experience with the church in general, not a lot, but over the years I have not seen you all as good neighbors, number one you only seem to be concerned about what happens inside your church and in the front and the side of your church, but all those oak leaves in your back yard, fall into the alley, they fall all over my property, for all the years that I've lived here, this church, the ownership now, have never once cleaned leaves up in the alley or trash, but yet the leaves are gone and trash is gone, Do you know who does it? My family and I have talked to, not you, I have never met you before, but I have talked to the people who clean up, when Conrad Brooks was here, uh occasionally they would help, but that's time, 40 bags of leaves sometimes and we take care of, so your parishioners come steaming down a clean alley every Sunday that they never help clean up and it's certainly more of you than there is of me. The other thing that you all finally did do the leaves this year in your church yard, even though you don't do those either, even though you have cars parking over top leaves, which is a fire hazard. Finally did clean them up in the middle of December, you broke the law. There were people out there with these hinged carts and they dragged the leaves up the street, instead of bagging them and we stood there and watched, so I don't have any good reason to believe that you will be good neighbors when it comes to a daycare center because you really haven't been good neighbors in terms of being a church. The other thing and this is not, let's see there's an occasion when churches went in the yard with their loud speakers and when I have complained I have been called names, so I mean it's like... I think that's all I need to say. Thank you.

Comment: My name is Alba Sureal and I live down the block from the church and my concern I don't want you to think that Sheila and Barbara express my concerns. A lot of them have to do with what will happen when we have a daycare center. I worry about the trash, because I'm a retired pre-school teacher and I notice that we generated a lot of trash and you either have to get some kind of private concern to come in and do it and/or you have to do it yourself and my concern also is that I have been here 30 plus years, when I moved here it was a nice quiet neighborhood, the school was still across the street, but it was made a one way street in the process along the way, which cause a lot of parking problems, because there is no parking, I think they do park cars behind the school, but there is no parking lot behind the school, therefore teachers have to park out on the street and on during snow storms and bad weather from the time I've lived here, we have had problems with snow removal and the ice and I have always had a terrible fit, especially the driveway that never is ever cleaned and I am for the children and I don't want to see any child get killed because of traffic because of ice or because of snow and I don't feel those problems have ever been properly addressed I was kind of shocked, we got salt on our street this year, but I though because it was a school it would have top priority, but that has not been the case. I have called and called and basically I think they have expressed a lot of my concerns. I love children I want to see them really taken care of because I worked with them and if there is anything more precious on this side of earth are the children that we have and that we are going to take care of and I would have to need know that these children are going to be in a very good environment, not a profit making environment, but a good environment, learning for health, natural health. I want to know that they are going to be well taken care of.

Ms Persons: Good afternoon, I'm Ruby Persons, and I apologize for being late and since I was late I would like to be bought up to speed as to who our group is and our purpose for addressing them.

Students: Hi, I'm Susanne Bennett, this is Rachel Coyne we're students at the Washington College of Law and we are representing Minister Brooks as legal council.

Ms Persons: Okay, thank you very much. I am a neighbor, I live on Alabama Avenue, third house up from this church. My concern is the fact that, with the influx of the childcare center, it really would be bringing a commercial enterprise into a residential area. When all of us purchased our homes here, 30 or so years ago, we all purchased our homes as residents, this house was a residents the house next door was a residents and I will not, do not, uh, I'm totally opposed to having a commercial enterprise bought into this community, all the problems that have been addressed before Ms Melborn speaking when I came and she addressed many of our, many of my concerns and also many of the concerns that my husband and I have discussed as we talked about the possibility of the daycare coming in and our main concern is the additional influx of traffic into the neighborhood when property is maintained as uh Ms Ashby pointed out that when people who have like something to do with a house like that, there is no family living in that house as a result the tenants need to take care of your property is not there and those of us who live in our houses we try to maintain our property we try to keep them painted, we try to keep the yards cleaned up and all that kind of stuff and that has not been the case with the property next door since it's been owned by the church and to continue to have that house to deteriorate, as it has been deteriorating, has absolutely no value adds no value to our homes, as a matter of fact I think that perhaps it would decrease the value of the properties that we have and in other neighborhoods, you've seen that to be true that houses that are not kept up detracts from the value of the homes that are existing there and I would not like to see that happen, I would like to see the property retained as a private residential property and not returning to a commercial property. We do not need a commercial establishment in our area. This is not a commercial zone it is a residential area and should retained as such. And if it were to be retained as such, then we would not have all that additional traffic, we wouldn't have the trash, we wouldn't have all the other problems that probably we, there may be problems already cropping up that we can't even anticipate at this time, who knows, but at least the problems have been outlined now are problems that we can foresee.

Ms Melborn: Again, I do have some major concerns here relative to your space I do not have my papers in front of me, that you were kind enough to provide for us, relative to your instruction program etc., Given the number of children in your day care application to the BZA, I want to know, I need to know if you have consulted the Board of Education of the District of Columbia, as far as early childhood programs are concerned, about the square footage that you need for certain things to go on, about how your property is to be secured so that children can not come around the fence and get out onto Alabama Avenue and if you are going to have enough personnel on the inside and the outside of your facility to be sure that this does not happen. Particularly concerned of the children in the area of 4 year olds 3-4 year olds where there is a prescribed curriculum by the DC public schools that should be followed, if I've been knowing the law correctly, but there are 3 year olds, we bring our children into headstart at 3 years old with a prescribed program, there are programs for specific programs for 4 year olds because we are starting our children out now at 4 years old, we have three preschool, pre kindergarten classes over here at Beers, which represent about 60 children and I need to know how close we are in compliance with the rules of the board.

Min. Aaron: Okay, I'm back, I'm Minister Aaron Brooks, let me start with the concerns that were addressed and go down the line of each person if that's okay. Let me just start out by saying, I am the lessor in this case I am the one who is leasing from Christian Praise Church, and so upon coming into the neighborhood and leasing the property so we will be quite interested in keeping the upkeep of the house together and to keep the value of property looking well. As I stated at the BZA meeting our intention is to take the 30 children from the population that is already there and at Veer and the existing community and not further exacerbate your problem by bringing 30 additional cars in there and I need to make this very clear because it keeps getting said incorrectly. The property that Christian Praise is giving us permission to use to drop off and pick up children, is not a parking lot, but a drop off/pick up area. Cars will not be parked there any longer than it would take for them to drop off and pick up their children and during the time that the children are dropped off and picked up, I will have a staff person in the middle of the yard where the wall is and I will have a person at the back where the basement steps are, there will be two staff persons there so that there is a smooth transition no children are accidentally bumped into, run down, fall

down or anything of that nature, because my primary concern is that the children are well taken care of, not to make a profit. I need to discuss this issue because it's been bought up at the BZA and it's been bought up again today I originally did apply for 23 hour care, which would have been all day and all night and it was not that they told me that I could not do that, it was that they told that I would have to resubmit the application once this part of the process has been done and I have daycare center open. Ms Ashby I am a person of integrity I don't know what went on at Christian Praise before and I again have already apologized for part that I do know, I say we are going to close at midnight we close at midnight I have no intentions of running the business any further than the time that I have been allotted. I don't know if anyone has done any research the fines that are levied for running your business outside of the hours that they give you are $500 per infraction, after the third infraction of operating outside the business hours that they have allotted to you, your business can be closed down. That's the Dept of Human Services regulations. Not only is it a regulation, but I am a person of integrity which means I do as I say, my word is good, if I tell you I going to close at midnight, I'm closing at midnight, also I would like for you to make special note, that all of the children will not be getting picked up at midnight, they will be getting picked up intermittently, between 7pm and midnight parents will be getting out church at 9 from revivals 9:30, some people have to work late until 8pm they will be getting their children, the children will be picked intermittently and again my staff will be around to make sure that the children get moved as quietly and peacefully as possible. We are not here to further exacerbate any noise problems or any slamming door problems, or anything like that. I stated at the BZA meeting and I will restate it again, that I intend to greet and make aware of my parents all of these concerns, noise, parking, traffic concerns, my legal counsel has taken the liberty of drawing up this parking contract that I told you that I would draw up to make sure that anybody that parks on anybody's property, driveway or blocks it with more than 2 infractions will be asked to remove their child from the daycare center even to the degree that I have it in the contract and that contract will be made part of the handbook that each parents gets. It will be signed by me, the parents and we will make sure that it is heavily enforced, it will be discussed with them, I will walk them around as a group and point you alls parking spaces to them, so that everybody is aware where they should and should not be at all times Because Christian Praise has allowed us to drop off and pick up in the yard, we will use that area for that we are in the process of research how much it would cost to have signs put up so nobody parks in front of that gate during the time it is drop off / pickup time the gate will be open, so that will provide a certain amount of space where people cannot park in front of the gate. We also asking Christian Praise church as me being the Lessor from them looking into getting signs saying, no parking, no standing, no iteming, or however I no that the signs run from $250 - $1000 depending on the size of the sign, but we just haven't narrowed it down exactly what we're going to use and since we are aware that the neighborhood is condensed with traffic and that the school is going to be there whether I open the daycare center or not, so that's a problem that needs to be addressed, we have also taken the liberty of writing a letter to the superintendent of the schools, Mr. Paul Vance, to see if we can't manage to get the problem addressed, about the traffic in this neighborhood about the school, since they are not going to move the school, and since the police officers are not going to be committed to being on their post we would like to at least give them input on how we can alleviate the problem. If that means getting some of the special permission retracted and having more children from the neighborhood be there then that's what we're going to have to do, but we are going to send this letter to him, to see if we can get his response, to our problem with parking and with regard to the traffic in the area. Also, we're in the process of, I was just talking to Deacon Jones, who is the gentleman sitting behind you, about the trash removal, it's being picked up once a week now, we are in the process of negotiating a contract we are going to look into 2 different companies to see if we can't manage to have them pick up the trash at least twice a week, once the daycare center does open, as far as now though since the daycare center is not open the church has a once a week policy where the trash get picked up due to the fact that they don't generate much trash. They do have trash bins, there are 3 of them, they're black, 4 feet tall, they sit on a wooden grate it is not cemented but is wood so it is elevated so that the trash is picked up and they do have lids on them they are covered up and you can see that as you go out the back, so the trash is being taken care of and that issue is being addressed. The other daycare centers in the area, I did talk to Ms Roberson, who is the director at St Timothy's, they have

exactly 88 children, they also have a waiting list, because they are full, because they have infant care and there is a great need for infant care in this city, but they are full and they do have a waiting list there. I did also talk to Ms Hamlet, I believe that's her name, who is the interim principal and they do have those 3 programs, the Veers program, Stars program and the NASA program. It is my effort, I started out reading about unity when we started out, I know that there has been bad blood between this church and the community, and again I apologize for that, but it is my intention to make us have a harmonious experience with one another, to have open communication with you ladies, not just in a formal meeting, as such, but if you all have concerns, you all have my phone number once the daycare center does actually open, I'm always available to contacted, I had a nice little conversation with Ms Melborn, when I called you all to invite you all to the meeting. So I'm available, I'm accessible, I don't know what the experience has been before, but I know that I have spoken to Pastor Andrus, about being more accessible and more reachable with you all. It's in the interest of this church, it's in the interest of my business, it's in the interest of us all to be good neighbors with one another, whether the daycare center ever comes here or not, I live in this community, I don't live exactly on this street, but I told you at the beginning, I told Ms Turner as a matter of fact on election day, I live on 28th Street, I know you don't remember, but I asked her about Mr Grant, she was out with another lady I believe she lives in this house, so I am committed to making sure things run as smoothly as they can once the daycare center does come. Ms Alba, I am committed to having children in the best care that can be provided for them, we're going to have sign language, we're going to have Spanish being provided for them, because any child that is multi-lingual is also multi-cultural, you can reach different racial lines, you can put yourself in a different position job wise when you have a marketable skill and I'm sure it's former pre-school teacher. My grandmother, Lucille Sturdivant, is a 35 year school teacher and she also had daycare, so I have daycare center experience in my family, I intend to have the best daycare center is the city. I don't do the things that are not done in excellence, just like I did not do this meeting, it wasn't a rinky dink meeting, and I'm not going to run a rinky dink business. I believe that God operates in excellence and I do the same, so therefore I provided that contract for you all and I provided the letter to the superintendent, I have tried to cover all of my bases that I could and that were in my power to cover. I hope that I have been successful in covering those bases, I am not superman and I am new to this particular neighborhood and I am just getting wind of the problems and the issues are and I am trying to meet those challenges as much as I can, with the help of Christian Praise church. When I am done I will give Pastor Andrus a chance to talk on behalf of the church, where his neighbors are concerned, they are his neighbors because they do own the building, but I tried to do everything in my power to meet the concerns of the neighbors in this community and to be a better neighbor than what has been done before. Again I really do feel your pain, as a person looking for a home I would not want to be disrespected or come home and have someone parked in my space, I will try to make sure that the noise I kept down as much as possible, doors shutting and opening is not something that I can control, but I will ask my patrons not to slam their doors, but that's the way that goes. As far as the curriculum is concerned, Ms Melborn, we will be using the prescribed curriculum, the Abeka curriculum **(Ms. Melborn: "the who?")** the Abeka curriculum, it's Abeka, they prescribed that particular curriculum for preschool children and for our children that go to head start **(Ms Melborn: "oh you're talking about the Abeka,)** yes! **(Ms Melborn: "okay")** yeah! Abeka, Obeka, it's a large heeps of them. **(Ms Melborn: "I just never heard of it and I didn't know that after I wrote it down I saw Abeka, okay")** that's the curriculum that we will be using for the children and also we will be using basic biblical principles to guide the children, I think that one of the problems with our children these days is that they don't have the basic guidance of God in their lives and that's something that I want to get back to. It's something that I was raised on and I think it is imperative as we move forward, not just as a community but as a nation. **(Ms Melborn: "you mentioned Spanish, do you have a certified teacher to teach Spanish? You know sometimes we get the teacher's aid teaching the Spanish and the children come out after 36 weeks and they don't even know what buenos dias mean and that represents a major problem, since you mentioned that you've spoken to me on the phone, I've tried in excess of 20 times to fax something to you because you had given us a fax number and I knew that you were not residential here at the church and my fax did not go through, my another questions, are you aware of the number of children who live**

on this peninsula that border here 36th street 36th place Alabama Avenue? Minister Brooks: No! **(Ms Melborn: No, zero. So when it gets past 6:00 and we have noise, I want it to be clear and understood that we then have a problem, please understand that sitting here in this room there are 5 females, 4 of which are retired teachers, and we have a lot of years, I have 19 years in DC, 20 years in PG county and 15 years with Catholic University, the UDC and Maryland University, I know what the rules are as they relate to teaching, We have a preschool teacher, we have a college professor here, we know what the rules are, what I want to be very clear with you is we want these concerns to be addressed and had we known that you were going to be here today and present it to the counsel, then we would have bought our own counsel of record also, however, when you have your meeting with the superintendent to discuss what our concerns are, are we a part of our, or do we need to make it a letter.** (Minister Brooks: the letter is a sample, I intend that when the superintendent grant us a meeting, that we all be there because this is actually the neighborhood that you live in and the problem really confronts you all. I open the business and move on with the business, you'll still be living here and you'll still have the problem. My concern is that the problem get addressed beyond my business. This is a problem that was here before I got here and this is a problem that will be here when I'm gone **(Ms Melborn: and we appreciate that)** if nobody addresses the problem and evidently the superintendent prior to this point has not been made aware of the problem because nothing has been done about it, so it's my intention that letter is a sample, but we do intend for all of us to be a part of that meeting, all of you that want to be a part, to be a part of that meeting, so that you all can tell him what the concerns are better than I can, being that I am the new person in the neighborhood.

Ms Ashby: I have some comments to make to, this Barbara Ashby, I don't think this parking contract is complete, I think it needs to be statement about no pickup and delivery on Alabama Avenue, because with previous childcare center, there were parents who did that even though they were told not to. It also needs to have a statement talking about no parking or idling in the alley. That alley shouldn't even be used as a thorough fare, so.

Min. Aaron: Let me just say this Ms Ashley, you have a copy of my original proposal there? It does speak to the fact that there will be no pickup or drop off on Alabama Avenue at all, as a matter of fact, the front door **(Ms Ashby: but it's not in here!)** because that specifically for the parking issues and the violation that were incurred by the residents that live here, that will be the latter part of the contract that they get, everything is in that proposal that you have and will be at the front of that contract, that is an addendum, if you will speak directly to the party **(Ms Ashby: no but the parent is not signing, you don't have the parents, I mean you can do your contracts any way you want, I'm just making note of the fact that, in this particular contract, it says nothing about picking up and delivering children on Alabama Avenue which some of them will try to do in picking up and delivering children in the alley, especially, especially if 36th place is blocked, which it often is!)** Minister Brooks: Now I have made this clear at the BCA meeting and I'll make it again, I have not govern what goes on in the alley, it is a thru fare that is open on both ends, if the police does not enforce what goes on in that alley, **(Ms Ashby: so this is useless then, because there are too many loop holes)** Minister Brooks: the only loop hole there is where the alley is concerned and again that is, I specifically addressed Alabama Avenue at the very front of my contract that's what the parents will get in their hand there is nothing for them to sign about Alabama Avenue, I can not tell them not to park on Alabama Avenue it is a public city street **(Ms Melborn: you can give them warning not to park there** (Minister Brooks: but what I'm saying is...they can not be taken if there are no signs on Alabama Avenue that say don't park there so there is no excuse for the police to have to be there, no but what I'm saying is there is no parking violation on Alabama Avenue) **(Ms Ashby: I agree there is no parking violation, but the whole intent was that you say you are going to use 36th Place was to give the impression that the children would not be exposed to all that fast traffic on Alabama Avenue)** Minister Brooks: The front door of my facility will be locked, so there will be no way for the parents to drop their kids off on Alabama Avenue, that's the point I'm trying to make. **(Ms**

Ashby: They did last time and there is no penalty for it, because it's not here. The other thing I wanted to bring up is, you were saying that all the children will be drawn from the existing population at Ann Barren School. How can that be? You are taking children as young as 2 1/2, there are no 2 ½ year old children at Ann Beers School, that's an elementary school, so these are new children coming. Minister Brooks: If there are children at the 3 and 4 year level 6,7, 8, 9 and 10, 11. **(Ms Ashby: 2 ½ , there are none, are there?)** Minister Brooks: Just a second **(Ms Ashby: okay)** If there are children there at that level then there's a chance that those children have brothers and sisters that are 2 ½ and up. I am going to the PTA meeting to find out just what the pulse of that population is, all of my children will not be 2 ½ . A lot of my children...**(Ms Ashby: But it is true that there will be additional children, that are not presently attending that school)** Minster Brooks: Yes, that is true. I'm not saying all the children all 30 slots are gonna be filled by Ann Beers. **(Ms Ashby: In terms of the weekend, Friday night all day Saturday and Saturday night, where are those children coming from)** Minister Brooks: Those will be the children that are provided with regular care the only children that will be having a chance to utilize the facilities are those that are already a part of the daycare center that will not be an additional 30 children that will just be for the ones that already use the daycare on a day to day basis. **(Ms Ashby: It really sounds like an institution) (Ms Melborn: Do I hear you saying that the people who come to the church in the evening will not be availing themselves, Minister Brooks services, since your church has several evening services throughout the week and with the childcare center next door and on church property, will those people have occasion to bringing their children to be supervised while they are in the worship services here?)**

Minister Andrus: No only those that are part of the regular day to day daycare.

Ms Melborn: For the record, I guess you'll know my voice on that tape after this. I need to know at which meeting the ANC, under Mr Grant's auspices, said that the ANC was in support of a childcare center..

Min. Aaron: We met with the ANC at their original meeting which was the third Saturday in December and Mr Grant said pending no major concerns, because the only person that he had talked to was Ms Turner and that ANC was in support because I had satisfied all of their legal concerns.

Ms Melborn: And do you also have in your records that Mr. Sockwell, at BZA, stated very clearly his major concern about Alabama Avenue being a major thorough fare through SE and he did want that to be addressed specifically in your in your updating of the plan.

Min. Aaron: Yes I do have in my notes what Mr Sockwell said about Alabama Avenue, as a matter of fact, I have it right here, the notes from the meeting. Mr Sockwell is not going to impact the neighbors, **(Ms Melborn: Mr Sockwell said that!)** Mr Sockwell, that going to max out at 30 students is not going to impact into your streets, the impact on neighbors at 36th place. Alabama Avenue is a major street, committee to have rush, their having parking and traffic division of the government to come out and survey Alabama Avenue because it is a major thru fare, so that's really what's being done there. They have continuous high traffic problems.

Ms Ashby: Will we be able to take a tour of the proposed site?

Min. Aaron: Sure. Whenever you like you can take a tour.

Ms Ashby: Will we be able to do that today since it's not 2:40.

Min. Aaron: You can take a tour of the proposed site, see the improvements that I am making. Again, listen ladies . I understand your concerns, I am very flexible and willing to work with you in any regard that I can. I am not Mr fix it so I can not provide an immediate cure all to every problem that has been going on in this neighborhood for 30 years.

Ms Ashby: Would you be willing to find a different site for your center, because you know I'm really not opposed to daycare centers. I'm a mother and a grandmother. It's just that this is just not a good site for it and that would be the best kind of cooperation that you could give to us.

Ms Melborn: At the interest of the neighborhood, we're not asking you to come up with a panacea of our errors, but we do feel that it is better that you know what our concerns are before you come in and just as your ideal or your vision of this child development center, to allow children to become spiritually, socially, morally and academically good people in our society, we are not saying, we don't want that, and I think that needs to be clearly understood with you, however, please understand that we do do our homework and remember as we sit here, 5 retired females, that's all we got to do is do our homework and drink coffee.

Min. Aaron: And I don't doubt that Ms Melborn. I want to give Pastor Andrus a chance to say something and then if you want I'll take you over and you can get a tour of the ongoing construction and the facilities that we're still doing work on today, oh not today but work is still in progress. I appreciate your all of you alls time and concern. Again, you all have my phone number and a way to contact me. Ms Melborn, about my fax machine, my fax and phone line are not up at the daycare center, because I had them removed, because I'm not going to be opening at least until we finish court the next time and then there's 6-8 weeks after that for inspection, so I had those lines removed, because there was no sense paying for something that I couldn't use, that's why I also provided my cell phone number and I know it works, because I got a message from Ms Ashby letting me know she'll be here.

Ms Melborn: Give me those numbers again

Min. Aaron: 202-255-1354 and there is voice mail there so you can leave a message.

Ms Melborn: Okay now how about that number in your pocket. And it's on all the time. If I called it right now would it ring?

Min. Aaron: It's in the car right now, but yes.

Ms Ashby: So are you willing to consider different site for your daycare center?

Min. Aaron: To be honest Ms Ashby, I hadn't considered another site at all, I'm not even going to lie to you, I'm a person of integrity, I would be falsely representing myself if I even told you that I've thought about looking for another site and I'm not going to falsely represent myself, no I haven't considered another site. To be very honest with you, I didn't have any idea, of the problems that we had in the area until they were raised by all the people who live directly on this street. The only person that I did talk to was Ms Turner, and she made it very clear that under no uncertain terms that she was vehemently opposed. So prior to that I had no idea of the problems that exist.

Ms Ashby: No, and wouldn't expect you to, you're renting, but the fact that the church is right here and they didn't let you know that this existed all these years is just almost misleading you. I feel sorry for you in some ways.

Ms Melborn: Not many ways. However, when you came into this church that has been dormant for 2 years, there was no announcement no effort to warn the community, you wakeup one Sunday morning, you went to church, you came back and you couldn't park on your street, that's how you knew the church was open, because the school wasn't open and when we talk about being good neighbors, and I'm getting a little ..... so bare with me, when you come into a neighborhood, and I give Minister Brooks credit, let the people in the neighborhood know you are here, had we known you were here, we could have addressed any concerns that we had, we probably could have worked it out, and we would not have been busy feeling, cause I'm going to tell you right now I think you had a scam on us. I think to rent that house was a scam. I think when you told

us the ANC meeting that they approved it, that was a scam, cause you know what we did, we went to the ANC meeting and we confronted Roscoe Grant and we were at the meeting this morning of the Hillcrest Heights Community Civic Association, where Mr Grant again made touched some statements and Mr Sockwell said there specifically, he had a major concern about Alabama Avenue, and unfortunately I did not bring that big briefcase with all my papers in it, because I have been giving them to the Mr Roscoe Grant and the chairperson of the Civic Association so I don't even have a copy of everything I've turned in, but I'm going to get one, but I feel we as a community have certainly put together our needs, any meeting that you have called, we have shown up in numbers and to not to be a good neighbor to us is a major concern of mine. My problem is not with Minister Brooks, my problem is with Christian Faith Church, not making the community aware of what it does. Now when you came in and we had finally realized that the church was open, nobody made me think , nobody has come to my home and knocked on the door and said I am the minister of Christian Faith Church or I'm the hospitality person at Christian Faith we'd like to let you know we're opening again in the community and we have a new pastor and invite you to come down and visit us on Sunday it' like if you are in the community and you don't have a church home please come down and visit our church. Now we did not get that, we did get that with Conrad Brooks, Conrad Brooks past and we said to Mr Brooks it's noisy on Sunday, then we didn't get the noise, but I want to say to you as opposed to him, I am opposed to this daycare center I will do every thing in my power to try and stop it from opening in my community, I feel that my community has been personalized enough and after my meeting this morning with 75 traffic tickets on Alabama Avenue, It is outrageous and we still have not come to the third Wednesday in February when we go to the 610 meeting to determine the crime in our area, if you want us to cooperate with you, then you need to be a good neighbor to us and I speak categorically, I understand your fax machine was not on, but you should not have given me the fax number if your fax was not on, see that should not have happened, BINGO! I've shared with my neighbor Ms Ashby and we were just passing in the night neighbors, until we found out about this daycare center and now we talk not half the day, half the night go out to lunch, have coffee and do every thing, so please understand that and I will be at the BZA hearing and I'm going to say something to my cohorts, the advisory neighborhood commission that met in January did not approve, they did not approve! Roscoe Grant did not approve and that's where your integrity comes into question with me.

Min. Aaron: Let me say this, and then I'll let Pastor Andrus take over. About my integrity, I specifically, let me tell you about my integrity, not only was I at that meeting and Ms Turner knows I was at that meeting, she had a funeral specifically that day and that's why she wasn't there.