May 3, 2002

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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2002 MAY -9 AM 2:01

Mr. Jerrily R. Kress
Director
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Kress:

I am writing to request the denial of a "special exception to allow a change of nonconforming use from retail grocery to retail grocery and deli (no seats) under 2003, in an R-4 District for Bless 7 to 9, Inc., 434 Shepherd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20011 **(Application Number 16880).** The Residents of Randolph, comprised of 15 residents in the 400 block of Randolph Street, N.W., wish to oppose the "special exception" because the business adversely impacts our abutting properties and continues to promote a grievous, hostile environment.

In the two years that Mr. Endale Terefa has owned the Bless 7 to 9 Store, the residents of the 400 block of Randolph and Shepherd Streets have witnessed:

- Excessive pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- Loitering during business hours
- Disturbances/noise during business hours
- Littering: soda and beer bottles, candy wrappers, etc.
- Robbery: December 2000
- Violation of current retail grocery license: sells beer and cigarettes to minors

Furthermore, Mr. Terefa has continuously failed to respect the concerns of the community and the law. On Monday, February 11, I (representing the Residents of Randolph); the Metropolitan Police Department; and a representative from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Alcohol Beverage Control, met with Mr. Terefa to discuss the littering, loitering, and other disturbances the store created. Mr. Terefa assured us that he would coordinate with the MPD, DCRA, and the community to attempt to alleviate many of the problems. To date, the same level of problems exists.

BZA
Case No. 16880
Exhibit No. 17

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16880
EXHIBIT NO.17

Thus, we request the Advisory Neighborhood Commission to disapprove the special exception application until the business owner addresses the aforementioned concerns. A petition (including required signatures) from residents of abutting properties, and a letter from the Metropolitan Police Department supporting our protest will be forwarded to your office within 10 days.

If you have inquiries regarding this protest, please contact me at (703) 607-6134.

Respectfully,

Kiesha Miller
Residents of Randolph

cc:

Mr. Adrian Fenty, Councilmember, Ward 4
Mr. Timothy Jones, Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (4C)
Mr. Shawn Fenty, Vice-Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (4C)
Lt. Samuel Snyder, PSA 407 Manager, Metropolitan Police Department