COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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April 17, 2003

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning
441 Fourth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Ms. Kress:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bannum, Inc. opening and operating a 150 bed halfway house for inmates at 2210 Adams Street, N. E. I have opposed the opening of the facility since I first learned of Bannum's interest in housing the inmates in this industrial zone; and, have written several letters to Mr. Stewart Rowles, Administrator of the Community Corrections Branch of the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons and to David Clarke, Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs stating my opposition. (See attached)

The property at 2210 Adams Place, N. E. is located in a CM—2 District. Under section 801.7 (k) of the zoning regulations, *a temporary detention or correctional institution* is allowable on leased property for three years in a CM-2 District as a matter of right. However, the contract Bannum was awarded is for a halfway house not a "detention or correction institution." Consequently, Bannum will be operating illegally in a restricted zone.

The halfway house is too closely located to children and families. It will adjoin a Day Treatment Center for the developmentally disabled. It is also in close proximity to Langdon Elementary School. I fear for the safety and security of the children. Also, Ward 5 already has its share of halfway houses.

I strongly urge you to vote in opposition to Bannum's request to house a halfway house in a restricted zone.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 5

BZA
Case No. 16998
Exhibit No. 21

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 16998
EXHIBIT NO. 21

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

November 5, 2001

Mr. Stewart Rowles
Administrator
Community Corrections Branch
U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Washington, D. C. 20534

Dear Mr. Rowles:

It has been brought to my attention that Bannum, Inc. has plans to operate a "halfway house" for federal prisoners at 2210 Adams Street, NE. Please let me refer you to my letter dated May 4, 2001 wherein I adamantly stated my opposition to any halfway house for federal prisoners or a prison in Ward 5. My position still remains the same. The community also has voiced its opposition to locating additional halfway houses in Ward 5.

The location where the halfway house is being proposed adjoins a Day Treatment Program for the developmentally disabled. Putting a halfway house that adjoins this facility is totally unacceptable. It poses a serious problem of jeopardizing the safety and security of the clients as well as the personnel.

As stated in the May 4th letter, Ward 5 already has its share of halfway houses. It is already either home or borders three of the six District run halfway houses that house pretrial detainees, court-ordered midemeanants, and sentenced felons. The six halfway houses in the District have a combined bed space capacity of up to 546 offenders. (The Bureau of Federal Prisons (BOP) operates two of the facilities that together house 50 residents.) Of the 546 beds, the three halfway houses in and bordering Ward 5 account for 305 of the total number of beds. Of the remaining 245 beds, 194 are housed in Hope Village, which is located in Southeast Washington. Consequently, the four halfway houses, which are located in three wards (5, 6, and 7) account for 91% of the available beds in the District. Thus, it is my belief that Ward 5 is already shouldering its share in supporting this effort.

As you know CCC#4, which is located in Ward 5, has presented many unintended consequences that came about as a result of locating sizeable concentrations of offenders in the community. In some instances, the offenders did not return to the halfway house and went on to commit violent crimes. There tends to be loitering around the facilities, and the facilities have substantial and real impacts on property values.

Accordingly, I would ask that you advise Bannum, Inc. of my position, and withdraw any plans that their office may have in locating a halfway house in Ward 5 now or in the future. My position will not change.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff, Estell Mathis-Lloyd on (202) 724-8028.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 5

cc: Cathy Bellew, Senior Operations Director
Bannum, Inc.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

November 30, 2001

Mr. Stewart Rowles
Administrator
Community Corrections Branch
U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Washington, D. C. 20534

Dear Mr. Rowles:

I am in receipt of your November 16, 2001 letter in which you stated that Bannum Incorporated (Bannum) has been awarded a contract to operate a Community Corrections Center (CCC) at 2210 Adams Place, NE. Let me reiterate to you once again as I have in my previous communications with you in April and again in November, I am deeply opposed to an additional correction facility in ward 5 and will fight the opening of it on all fronts. The community supports me in this effort and will stand strong with me in my fight against the operation of any prison or halfway house in Ward 5. Your continued insistence on placing the Center at 2210 Adams Place, NE against my continued opposition is a total disrespect for my position and that of the Ward 5 community.

As has been stated to you in previous oral and written communication, Ward 5 already has more community correction facilities than any other ward in the District of Columbia. Further, let me inform you, in the event that you do not already know, Mayor Williams is establishing a 12-member advisory commission to recommend sites for community corrections facilities. The panel will recommend a plan of the proposed site to the Mayor and the U. S. Bureau of Prisons within 90 days of its first meeting. I urge you to withdraw your decision regarding 2210 Adams Place and wait for the panel to inform you of locations outside of Ward 5 where the proposed Center and other corrections facilities can be located.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 5

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

January 13, 2003

Mr. David Clark
Director
Department of Consumer and
Regulatory Affairs
941 North Capitol Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am requesting that you immediately place a "stop work" order on building construction taking place on 2210 Adams Place, NE to prevent the inappropriate opening of a 150 bed corrections facility for the purpose of housing 150 inmates by Bannum, Inc. The area is zoned industrial and consequently does not allow for residential use. The contract issued to Bannum by The Federal Bureau of Prisons is for 5 years. The building construction permit issued by your department is a temporary permit for three years. Additionally, Bannum has never presented its proposal to the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) for a vote by the entire body. The ANC is on record as opposing the facility and will participate in a community town hall meeting Tuesday evening, January 21st to oppose the facility.

I have opposed the opening of this facility since I first learned of Bannum's interest in housing inmates in this industrial zone, and have written letters to the Federal Bureau of Prisons stating my opposition. By letter to Councilmember Sharon Ambrose, Chair of the Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, I have requested that she holds an investigatory oversight hearing on the construction of this facility and the issuance of permits from your department.

Your immediate response to this request is necessary. My Chief of Staff, Estell Mathis-Lloyd, is assisting me in this matter. She can be reached on (202) 724-8067. Her email address is: elloyd@dccouncil.washington.dc.us.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 5

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

January 15, 2003

The Honorable Sharon Ambrose, Chair
Committtee on Consumer
and Regulatory Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear Councilmember Ambrose:

I am forwarding to you a copy of a letter I sent to David Clark, Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, requesting a "stop work" order on building construction taking place at 2210 Adams Place, NE to prevent the inappropriate opening of a 150 bed corrections facility for the purpose of housing 150 inmates by Bannum, Inc.

I am vehemently opposed to the opening and operation of this facility. First, the area is zoned industrial. Second, Bannum's contract is for 5 years, the permit obtained from DCRA is a temporary permit for three years. Finally, the affected ANC is on record as opposing it.

In addition to requesting a "stop work" order, I am requesting that you, as Chair of the Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, investigate this matter and hold an oversight hearing to determine why DCRA has issued a permit to construct a residential facility in an industrial zone.

Your immediate attention to this request is appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vincent B. Orange, Sr.
Coucilmember, Ward 5