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Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Center

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May 15, 2003

Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Board of Zoning Adjustment
Government of the District of Columbia

BZA
Case No. 17017
Exhibit No. 22

Dear Director Kress:

I have received the notice letter dated March 28, 2003. I understand that there will be a public hearing on June 3, 2003 to discuss case 17017 (the application to close the east-west alley ~~behind~~ between 6th and 5th Streets NW). Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the public hearing.

I have completed the Party Status Application (Form 140) and have mailed it to your office. I understand that this form has been received by your office.

I visited your office and spoke with Ms. Sheri Pruitt, the Secretariat of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. She was very friendly and helpful and I appreciate her time and advice. She suggested that I write a letter to you, in addition to sending you my Party Status Application.

I strongly hope that the east-west alley between 6th and 5th Streets NW will be kept open. This alley runs directly beside my property, where I live and have my office. I am concerned about the proposed closing of this alley for several reasons.

I am concerned that my property will be decreased in value. Right now, I am able to use the alley for

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17017
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parking my car and for access to my trash can. As you know, in a crowded city environment, this is a valuable benefit for me and would be a valuable benefit for any future owner of my property. Another valuable feature of my property is the fact that there is very little traffic in this alley, so the entire side of my building is quiet. This is very important for my family and my patients. Also, the alley permits light to enter the windows of my townhouse along the entire side, which is also a valuable benefit in an urban center, and the reason why I had to pay extra to purchase the end-unit townhouse in this row. I am concerned that closing the alley will destroy these valuable benefits and reduce the value of my property. My property is a significant asset for me and my family. Our financial security will be greatly impacted in a negative way if my property loses value or my acupuncture practice is affected.

Because my business is located in my townhouse and my family lives there as well, I will be affected by the proposed closing of the alley both professionally and personally.

I am also concerned that having an apartment building next door to my townhouse will also impact the value of my property in a negative way due to the resulting reduction in privacy, increase in traffic and pollution, increase in noise, reduction of light inside my townhouse

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increased population density on my block, reduction in my ability to quietly enjoy my property and the changed character of the neighborhood.

For these reasons, I hope that you will deny the application to close the east-west alley between 6th and 5th Streets NW.

Thank you very much for considering this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions..

I look forward to hearing about the progress of the public hearing and the conclusion of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Shihua Wu CMD LAc
Qiao-Ling Lei

cc: Mr. Robert Miller
Committee of the Whole

Ms. Debra Young
National Capital
Planning Commission

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