Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 NOV 19 AM 10: 51

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to BZA Case 17043 regarding parking requirements at the MedLink Hospital. I am a 13 year resident of the District and have lived across the street from MedLink Hospital for over a year. The hospital was recently granted a reduction in required parking spaces. This unwise action has created significant parking issues for our neighborhood. On any given evening the number of parking spaces taken up by employees and visitors to the hospital make it impossible for residents of the homes in the neighborhood to park. Visitors and employees of the hospital now routinely park not only in the street near the hospital but in the alley blocking many of the privately-owned parking garages. I have recently called the police on several occasions to have the cars ticketed and towed so there will be a record of these infractions. An additional parking problem related to MedLink is that ambulances called to transport patients routinely double park in front of the hospital instead of parking at the emergency entrance on the back of the facility. These are not emergency deliveries, but rather non-emergency stops where there are no flashing lights. We have complained to the hospital and they correct the problem for a few weeks and then it begins again. Please consider the following points as you review this letter.

1) BZA should revoke the Certificates of Occupancy because the Zoning Administrator issued them without input from BZA or the community.

2) BZA should require MedLink's owners to provide the same number of parking spaces as in BZA's existing orders, which establish how much parking is adequate for the facility. There are up to 176 parking spaces in MedLink's underground garage. There is no reason for the owner not to use all available on-site parking spaces to reduce parking pressure on the neighborhood streets.

3) There is no evidence of any change in the scale of operations at MedLink. The owner appears to have sought the new Certificate of Occupancy for the sole purpose of reducing parking requirements.

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 99

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 99

4) MedLink is staffed 24 hours a day, so employees can park on the street during hours not covered by the residential parking program, making it hard for residents to park on evenings and weekends.

5) MedLink has a consistent history of disobeying the parking requirements imposed by BZA.

6) Any reduction in the parking requirements should be conducted through a public process with opportunity for discussion of the adverse impact that reducing the required parking spaces will have on the surrounding residential area.

Sincerely,

Hugo A. Romero

Hugo Romero
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