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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
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Washington, DC 20001.

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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17043

Re: BZA Case No. ~~17403~~

To Whom It May Concern:

I write as a citizen concerned about parking in the Stanton Park Neighborhood, and specifically, near the MedLink facility in that neighborhood. I support the efforts of the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association in this proceeding, and ask that this body revoke the Certificates of Occupancy ("C of Os") granted to MedLink.

The Zoning Administrator issued these C of Os at issue here without input from this body or from community members like myself; had the Administrator sought such input, he would have been hard-pressed to justify issuance of the C of Os. My wife and I moved to the District, and specifically to the Stanton Park Neighborhood, a little over a year ago. We consider ourselves blessed to live in such a vibrant and diverse community. Perhaps one of our favorite things about living in the Stanton Park neighborhood is that we can walk most places; I walk to work, and we generally only use our car to get groceries or go out on weekends. And although our home, like many Stanton Park homes, has no garage, this has not to date been a problem because, like us, most of our neighbors are primarily walkers.

Recently, however, it has become increasingly difficult to find parking around our house. It was not until I found out about these proceedings, though, that I discovered that MedLink was largely to blame. MedLink is staffed 24 hours a day; accordingly, its employees park on the street during hours not covered by the residential parking program, making it hard for residents like us to park on evenings and weekends. And apparently, the C of Os recently issued to MedLink, and challenged in this proceeding, drastically reduced the number of parking spaces that facility is required to provide. It is not clear to my why this reduction was approved.

This body's existing orders, presumably arrived at after much thought and analysis, set a minimum number of parking spaces for a facility like MedLink. MedLink has, for some time, been bound by those orders--and while street parking on the Hill will never be plentiful, it has been adequate in the Stanton Park neighborhood. There is no evidence of any recent change in the scale of operations at MedLink. Rather, it appears that MedLink sought the new C of Os solely to avoid its responsibility to comply with the parking requirements established by this body. I do not understand why MedLink should now be relieved of this responsibility. There is

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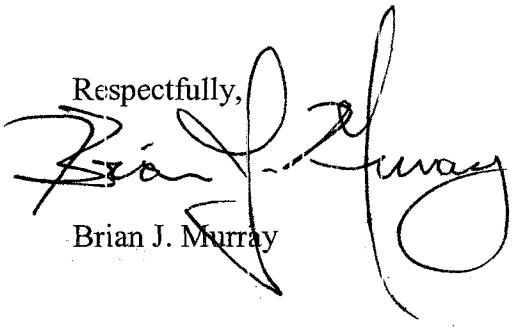
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no reason, whatsoever, for MedLink not to use all available on-site parking spaces to reduce parking pressure on the neighborhood streets.

With the right to run a business in the District comes responsibilities to its citizens and communities. If MedLink truly has some legitimate reason for needing relief from its responsibility to provide parking, it should go through the normal processes to obtain that relief. Those processes are designed so that MedLink will have to face concerned neighbors, like me, before it receives benefits from the District that make my life more difficult. Simply seeking a new C of O in secrecy is no way to treat a neighbor, and indeed, this approach strains the bonds of community that make Stanton Park such a wonderful place to live.

If the District truly is committed to revitalization, and in fostering vital communities as a means to achieving it, this body should not reward the kind of bad behavior exhibited by MedLink in this matter. It should revoke the C of Os recently granted to MedLink.

Respectfully,



Brian J. Murray