October 19, 2003

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

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To the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I am writing about BZA Case 17043 regarding parking requirements for the MedLink facility on Capitol Hill. I have lived on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years. During the past few years, lack of parking has been a continual and growing problem. This is particularly concerning at night when I can not find parking near my home and am not comfortable walking long distances during those hours. I have paid more than $300 in tickets during the last two years as a result of this problem.

It is essential that MedLink provide adequate parking for its employees. I particularly question the recent decrease in the number of places they need to provide, since they have adequate underground parking.

If MedLink doesn't provide adequate parking, MedLink's employees and visitors will compete with its neighbors for increasingly scarce on-street parking. BZA should revoke the Certificates of Occupancy because the Zoning Administrator issued them without input from BZA or the community.

I see absolutely no reason that BZA should not 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 my neighborhood streets.

Since I have heard no evidence of any change in the scale of operations at MedLink, it appears that the owner sought the new Certificate of Occupancy for the sole purpose of reducing already agreed upon parking requirements. This is not the first time he has tried to end-run the interests of this community.

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. As I mentioned before, this has been a particular problem for my family and me.

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 and the taxpayers who live here.

Sincerely,

Sherry Saunders
708 A Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 40

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 40