October 21, 2003

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

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Dear Board Member:

As a resident of the Stanton Park neighborhood, I am writing to urge you strongly to review the District Zoning Administrator's change of parking requirements for the MedLink medical facility on 7th Street, NE. I support the appeal of the ruling that has been filed by the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association and the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, case number 17043.

I have two significant concerns in this matter.
First, any decrease in the required number of parking spaces that MedLink must provide for its employees will result in excessive pressure on the few available on-street spots for neighborhood residents. As someone who does not have off-street parking, I depend on available street parking for my vehicle. Parking in Stanton Park is difficult as it is – there is no room for more parked cars on the streets of this neighborhood.

Second, I am concerned that this is the first I and others in the neighborhood have heard about the changes to MedLink's responsibility as a business in the neighborhood. Any reduction in the parking requirements should be conducted through a public process with opportunity to discuss – pro and con – the impact of a reduction in required parking places on the neighborhood. Public involvement is essential for fair and appropriate changes in policy, and any attempt to change these requirements without a public hearing stinks of back rooms and sleights of hand.

I do not have a long history with MedLink, as do others. However, I have seen the property values in this neighborhood change in a few short years, and I have serious concern that the motivation for this change is to eliminate the need for MedLink's underground parking garage. Such a piece of property, in this area, is worth millions for development.

Forcing Capitol Hill residents to suffer for MedLink's convenience, or perhaps avarice, is not fair, just, or acceptable.

I urge you to support the appeal and require MedLink to provide sufficient parking facilities for all its employees.

Yours very sincerely,

Ed Barker
607 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
202-547-7142

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 52

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 52