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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2013 OCT 24 PM 4:07

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

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to BZA Case 17043 regarding parking requirements at the MedLink Hospital. I am president of the Union Square Neighborhood Association that comprises 22 single family homes, over half with two bedroom rental units, located directly across the street from the MedLink facility. I have lived across the street from MedLink Hospital with my wife and 1 year old son for almost a year.

The hospital was recently granted a reduction in required parking spaces which has created significant traffic and parking issues for our neighborhood. We are continually concerned about employee traffic, parking and emergency vehicles loading and unloading in the middle of 7th Street. 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.

The ambulances routinely double park in front of the hospital instead of parking at the emergency entrance on the opposite side. These are not emergency deliveries, but rather non-emergency stops where there are no flashing lights. The emergency traffic on this residential street is dangerous, especially to the many children who live and play on this block. We have called 311 and police have arrived at the scene – but the problem returns. 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.

(Continued)

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 53

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 53

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.

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.

7) BZA should require MedLink's owners to direct and ensure that all ingress and egress of Residents to and from ambulances and other transportation vehicles be accomplished entirely on private property and not on any public street or sidewalk.

Thank you,

Jason Meath
President
Union Square Homeowners' Association

cc: Homeowners and renters of Union Square