October 23, 2003

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

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2003 OCT 24 PM 4:08

Reference: BZA case 17043

To Whom It May Concern.

I am a 19 year resident of the District of Columbia, former resident of Chevy Chase, DC, who moved 222 7th St, NE, on December 06, 2002. I received a $50 parking ticket because my vehicle was parked directly across the street from my house in front of MedLink. At the time, I didn't realize that only one side of our street is Zone 6 excepted. If the spaces in front of our houses are taken, we are often forced to park across the street risking the same parking violations as visitors and employees of the hospital. I would not have parked there if the spaces on my side of the street were not taken up with all the hospital parking traffic. These spaces are constantly used by visitors and employees of the hospital having non DC tags. Because the curb is low on our side of the street, often times the car tires end up on top of the curb risking damage to the curbs and sidewalk. I even observed one visitor utilizing our sidewalk space to make a u-turn in the middle of the street. The sidewalk and gutter is often littered with paper products, empty soda cans and water bottles. It makes it extremely difficult for all of us as residents and taxpayers to find parking spaces and tolerate the carelessness observed by all the MedLink traffic. Therefore, I recommend the following actions be taken in support of BZA case 17043:

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.

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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. Change the parking on the MedLink side of the street to Zone 6 excepted so residents can use it without risking a parking violation.

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

7. 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.

Your attention and consideration regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours Truly,

George Smith

George Smith
222 7th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002