October 27, 2003

715 A St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001
REFERENCE: BZA case 17043

Dear Sirs:

As a homeowner, taxpayer, and residential parking permit payer in the 700 block of A Street NE, I am writing in support of the appeal filed by The Stanton Park Neighborhood Association protesting the Zoning Administrator's reduction of the number of off-street parking spaces that Medlink must provide for its staff and visitors. If MedLink does not provide adequate parking, MedLink's employees and visitors will compete with the community for scarce on-street parking.

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. I am a senior citizen living alone, and often am forced to walk a block or more in the dark after driving around and around in order to find a parking space when I return home from evening activities. I feel very unsafe doing this, and am extremely worried that the problem will only become worse if MedLink is permitted to reduce its required number of parking spaces from 276 to 85. Since there is no evidence of any change in the scale of operations at MedLink, it appears that the owners have sought a new Certificate of Occupancy for the sole purpose of reducing parking requirements. There are up to 176 parking spaces in MedLink's underground garage (which I believe they were required to bring up to code several years ago). There is no reason for the owner not to use all available on-site parking spaces to reduce pressure on the neighborhood streets.

Daytime parking during the week and on weekends has recently become noticeably more difficult on my street. My street is always filled with cars from Maryland, Virginia, or other DC districts, and many overstay the two hour limit by remaining on the street all day. Whether or not this is MedLink parking, I have no way of knowing. However, I do know that the problem will only become worse of MedLink is not required to provide adequate parking for its staff and visitors.

I urge you to act favorably on the Stanton Park appeal.

Sincerely yours,

Louise S. Wheatley

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BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 64

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District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 64