641 C St., NE
Washington, DC 20002
October 28, 2003

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

Re: BZA case 17043

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please reverse the decision of the Zoning Administrator that allowed MedLink to reduce the number of off-street parking spaces it is required to provide.

Parking in the neighborhood was very tight before MedLink sold its outdoor parking lots to a developer who built luxury homes in their place. Parking is significantly worse now because both (1) the people who used to park in the outdoor lots and (2) the people living in the new homes need a place to park. I would estimate there were 40-50 cars parked in the MedLink outdoor parking lots at any given time before those lots were closed – and all those cars now park on the street. In addition, each of the new homes generally brought four new cars to the neighborhood – two for the homeowners, and two for the tenants of the two bedroom apartments in the basement of each home. Each home has a one- or two-car garage, which does help. However, even with the garages, each home has two or three cars that park on the street. Since there are, I believe, about 15 new homes, that's an additional 30 to 45 new cars parked on the street. When you add the MedLink employee cars and new luxury home cars together, you have between 70 to 95 new cars that now must park on the sidewalks around MedLink. In light of this influx of new cars, I don't understand how the Zoning Administrator could reduce the number of off-street parking spaces MedLink is required to provide.

Unlike most issues, this problem has an easy solution - MedLink has a parking garage, and it should be forced to use it. There's no reason why MedLink visitors and employees should have to park blocks away from work when there's a convenient and safe alternative available to them.

I live only about a quarter of a block away from MedLink, so I routinely see the problems caused by the lack of available parking. For example, a couple of months ago, at about 10 o'clock on a Sunday night, I saw two elderly women with Massachusetts plates on their car circling the neighborhood repeatedly in search of a parking place. I assume those ladies were somebody's grandmother and great-aunt who had driven down to Washington, DC, to visit a loved one. I worried about their safety, and, as the daughter of two elderly parents, I worried about how difficult it would be for them to walk the distance from their car to their destination. You have the power to protect those elderly women and others like them. Please make MedLink provide its staff and visitors with adequate, safe parking so people in the community can park close to their homes.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Smith

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 78

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District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 78