214 7th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-6087
November 12, 2003

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. We are twelve-year residents of the District of Columbia and we have lived directly across the street from MedLINK Hospital main entrance for almost a year. The hospital was recently granted a reduction in required parking spaces, which has created significant parking, noise, and idling vehicle issues for our neighborhood.

We are constantly disturbed by ambulances and fire trucks pulling up, sometimes with sirens still going, fire/police band radios not turned down, idling for long periods, making a lot of noise and rattling the windows, producing vehicle exhaust fumes, routinely double parking in front of the hospital's main entrance instead of parking at the emergency entrance on the opposite side of the hospital. Hospital employees and visitors coming and going, often with car stereos turned up very loud, often idling for long periods, honking the horn repeatedly while they wait to pick someone up. Shift changes appear to be very early in the morning or very late at night, so this noise is especially disturbing.

Our house has a one-car garage, which we use for our car. Our tenant and guests have regularly had difficulty finding parking. We have also had difficulty finding parking spots on 7th Street when we have been unable to use our garage, e.g., when it was being painted.

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.

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.

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 93

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 93

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 and their guests 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.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Washburn

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Michele J. Orza

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