10 February 2004

Office of Zoning
441 4th St., NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Reference Application: #17075

My name is James Huning. My wife and are the owners and occupants of a townhome at 1624 P St., NW. We have given Mr. Mark Bjorge, 1415 17th St., NW, power of agent to represent us at the hearing concerning the Chef's Express Carryout.

We are in opposition to the application of the Gorgone Family LP. The issue is one of appropriate land use. A food service facility is not compatible with the residential land use that exists contiguous to the site in question. There are many problems with incompatible land uses, but in this case they center on three primary ones:

1) Rat infestation. As you know the restaurant complexes on the north side of 17th St have had (and still have) a terrible rat infestation problem. The infestation has worked its way across the street and affects us. The building east of us, Resources for the Future, has had numerous rats and we (owners of the townhomes) have seen the rats go from there to the Chef's Express, crossing our property. This is not only a serious health hazard (droppings, etc), but it is also a safety issue as we have two very young grandchildren who often visit us and play outside where the rats are seen crossing.
2) Trash. This not only brings the rats but also leads to terrible odors.
3) Odor. There is nothing more disconcerting than to sit outside and have to smell the odor of food cooking from a restaurant. It would be different if we lived amongst the restaurants on the north side of 17th.

I urge the Board to reject the application of the Gorgone Family LP. All of us in the area are unanimous on this issue.

Sincerely,

James R. Huning
1624 P. St., NW
Washington, DC

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D.C. ZONING COMMISSION

BZA
Case No. 17075
Exhibit No. 33

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17075
EXHIBIT NO. 33