RE: BZA APPLICATION # 17194

Joey Fortuna
1706 16th Street NW #6
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 986-7569

Nate Gross
Arnold & Porter, LLP
555 12th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

June 14, 2004

Dear Mr. Gross:

I'm writing to let you know my thoughts on the pending request by the Akwaaba Inn (in the person of Monique Greenwood) for a license to operate her establishment as an eight-room B&B. I am Ms. Greenwood's immediate next-door neighbor. My wife and I own a condo in the building next door. Ms. Greenwood's efforts were unanimously supported by the ANC yesterday, and rightfully so.

A few months ago, Ms. Greenwood hosted an open house of the Inn. I stopped by and was extremely pleased to see what she's done with the place. The B&B is literary themed, and she intends to hold readings there, which I think is pretty cool. A portion of the house is also set aside to be a writer's retreat for aspiring authors. I can't imagine any reason to object to any of this. Eight of our friends have stayed at the Akwaaba since its inception and they all gushed about the amenities, service, and overall tone of the place.

Ms. Greenwood is a DC native. She's been living in New York for a long time and has done tremendous things with whole neighborhoods of Brooklyn (our former stomping grounds). I believe she should be supported for her efforts to bring business and culture back to DC. If past performance is any indication of future success, I believe she will have a great effect and lasting effect towards securing the peaceful, pleasant nature of our block and our neighborhood.

The staff at the Inn is very warm and welcoming. And I think you'll agree that the renovation work is impressive, and surely indicates a committment to legitimacy and solid enterprise.

Ms. Greenwood is former editor of ESSENCE magazine, is an author herself, and will make a very distinguished neighbor. She has personally contacted myself and my wife and made every effort to introduce herself and explain her plan for the Inn to us, all of which I find to be perfectly appropriate and neighborly.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all!

Sincerely,

Joey Fortuna

BZA
Case No. 17194
Exhibit No. 25

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17194
EXHIBIT NO. 25

RE: BZA APPLICATION # 17194

June 8, 2004

To the Dupont Circle ANC and Board of Zoning and Appeals

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Monique Greenwood and the Akwaaba D.C. Bed & Breakfast. In the ten years that I have known Monique, she has been an unrelenting advocate and driving force behind the revitalization of our historic neighborhood here in Stuyvesant Heights, Brooklyn.

In an area that had been plagued by non-sympathetic remodeling and out-right destruction of historic properties, Monique has been an inspiration and bright example of how we can all return property to its best and highest use. I know this, perhaps, better than anyone as my home is directly next door to the Akwaaba Mansion Bed & Breakfast.

By restoring a property that is the equivalent of six lots, Monique saved a rare building and piece of history that has become the crown jewel of the community. She has been an unrelenting advocate for the expansion of our historic district and a vocal protector of our property values.

I know that I am not alone in saying that we here in Bed-Stuy have a better neighborhood because of Monique. Many will miss her as a friend. I will miss her energy, optimism and admirable style of adding value to a community by having respect for the past and a visionary's eye toward the future.

You are receiving a treasure in Washington D.C. and I strongly urge you to support Akwaaba D.C. because I know first hand the positive outcome you will enjoy.

Crystal A. Bobb-Semple

Crystal Bobb-Semple

Owner of 339 MacDonough Street
and
Vice-President
Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant

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Executive Director
Douglas Richardson

RE: BZA APPLICATION # 17194

June 9, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of Akwaaba D.C. Bed and Breakfast, located at 1708 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Our scholarly association, the Association of American Geographers, has owned and occupied the entire building located immediately next door at 1710 Sixteenth Street for over 30 years.

Prior to Ms. Monique Greenwood purchasing 1708 Sixteenth Street for Akwaaba D.C., the property was a nine-room bed and breakfast operating under the name of The Brenton. We did not experience any negative impact as a result of The Brenton, nor do we have any issue with Akwaaba D.C. operating as an eight-room bed and breakfast.

Ms. Greenwood has been very considerate as a neighbor, and the professional manner in which the property is maintained and operated has been an asset to the neighborhood. If you have any questions regarding our position, please don't hesitate to contact me at (202) 234-1450.

Sincerely,

Douglas Richardson

Douglas Richardson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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