RE: BZA APPLICATION # 17194

Subj: **The Akwaaba**
Date: 6/7/2004 9:50:57 AM Eastern Daylight Time
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Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hello all,

I'm writing to let you in on a little neighborhood drama. You may have seen notices to this effect by the mailboxes, but his Wednesday, the ANC is meeting to discuss (among other things) the application by our neighbor, Monique Greenwood for a zoning change which will allow her to continue using the building next door as a B&B.

This "change" is really just an extension of the way the building has been used for years, and wouldn't really be necessary except that (I guess) some folks in the neighborhood are contesting her right to do this. I have no idea why anyone would have a problem, except out of fear of the unknown.

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.

Stop by the Inn anytime you have a chance. The staff 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 an all-around respectable and distinguished neighbor. She has personally contacted Mila and me 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

BZA Case No. 17194 Exhibit No. 26

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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and neighborly.

Mila and I can't attend the meeting due to a prior committment (Bill Cosby at Wolftrap!!), which is why I'm writing. I've sent an email to our ANC rep, but personal representation will go further I believe. And it might even be fun to see the gears of neighborhood activism in motion. So if you have a chance, please stop by the meeting and lend your support for Monique and the Akwaaba Inn.

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

Here's the website for the Inn, for your reference:
http://akwaaba.com/washington.html

--Joey (#6 -1706)