BZA
Ref. Raymond & Laura Saba
B&B on R Street
Jan 4, 04
Dear BZA Board Members,

I am astonished to learn our Greek Embassy neighbors are opposed to what most residents on 2200 block of Mass. Ave., R Street and 22nd are welcoming with open arms for the following reasons.

1. **RESTORATION:** The building stood vacant for a decade. It was a rat infested, delapidated building.
Anyone could have bought this building including the Greek Embassy.
The Saba family bought it and are restoring back to its original beauty.

2. **SECURITY**: Having residents who live in the buildings they own add to any neighborhoods security. We look out after one another. Embassy personnel go home at night.

3. **SECURITY & A BED AND BREAKFAST**: Once again people going in and out of a small B&B make a neighborhood vital. It is safer when there are people on the street. When the few residents that are left in this area take a stroll at night there will be lights on and hopefully, a few B&B tourist out enjoying our neighborhood.

4. DANGER TO THE EMBASSY? There are hotels next to and near embassies. The Indonesian Embassy and the Indian Embassy have not tried to close the Embassy Row Hotel or the Shearton Fairfax Hotel . Why would a small B&B frighten our Greek neighbors? As DC embassy row residents we have gone through an actual bombing (Chilean Ambassador killed) bomb threats, massive demonstrations, police blockades, arson, etc. We never asked the embassies to leave HOWEVER,

5. When the Greek Embassy undertook a 4 year renovation and damaged several buildings on 2200 block of Mass. Ave. due to their huge underground excavation and destroyed our alley not one person from the embassy ever responded to the neighbors request to please simply repair and restore. (A packet of letters and photos available upon request) We endured 4 years of renovation noise, street and alley blockage in addition to personal and public property damage.

BZA
Case No. 17260
Exhibit No. 32

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17260
EXHIBIT NO. 32

BZA
SABA B&B continued

6. The difference is THE SABA FAMILY MET THE NEIGHBORS. TOLD US EVERYTHING THEY WERE DOING. GAVE US A PERSONAL CELL PHONE NUMBER TO CALL ANY TIME. The Greek Embassy told us to call the DC Govt. if we have a problem.

Members of BZA please approve the Saba family B&B. We need neighbors we can count on, ones who have a face, ones who will call back like good neighbors do. We are putting up with hundreds of cars going in and out of the embassy through our alley way, diplomatic cars parked in front of our home daily in addition to the above embassy renovation expereince. Certainly, the Greek Embassy can welcome a newly renovated , small, charming family style B&B. **PLUS THEY WILL PAY PROPERTY TAX!** What an added benefit that will be to the few of us left in the neighborhood who do.

Respectfully,

Lynn Skynear
2203 Mass Ave. N.W.

30 year resident