



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

October 17, 2019

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S
Washington DC 20001

BZA Case No. #20135, Call Your Mother

Dear Chair Hill and Members of the Board:

I write to ask that you not grant a zoning variance in the above referenced case. While I am a strong supporter of more retail in the Georgetown area, there are plenty of vacant commercial spaces where this very successful business could locate in Georgetown. The location in question, 3428 O Street NW, is in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

For many years, this property has been used commercially, as a florist. The florist did not draw large crowds lining the streets waiting to get in. Call Your Mother, at its current location, does attract large crowds. It is not retail, but a prepared food shop, and therefore needs a variance. The Board can authorize a variance under three conditions, one of which is that the variance 'would not cause substantial detriment to the public good.' The neighbors on 34th, 35th, O, and N Streets argue that this would cause substantial detriment.

The detriment to the neighborhood in this case will come in many forms. Large crowds will mean that sidewalks will be blocked by customers. Large crowds will also mean there will be more trash which will inevitably attract rats. This business requires frequent truck delivery of goods needed to keep the shop supplied. This, along with customers who drive to the location will result in more traffic congestion. All of this would affect the quality of life for these residents.

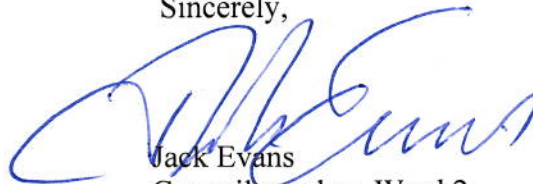
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20135
EXHIBIT NO.40



In this case, the solution is simple: they can move the location a few blocks to a commercial area where they will not only benefit from their reputation, but from foot traffic, resulting in even more success.

Although the ANC voted in favor of the variance 6-2, I join with the residents and the ANC2E SMD Commissioner, Rick Murphy, in asking you to deny this variance request.

Sincerely,



Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2

CC: Rick Murphy, ANC2E03