

FW: Support for BZA Case No. 20445

Jason Maga <jjmaga@gmail.com>

Sat 4/17/2021 8:40 PM

To: Anna Fraser <afraser@sullivanbarros.com>; 'spiro gioldasis' <sgiboldasis@yahoo.com>

FYI.

From: Jason Maga <jjmaga@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 8:38 PM

To: bzasubmissions@dc.gov

Cc: 'Charles Allen' <charles@charlesallenward6.com>; 6b06@anc.dc.gov; 6b08@anc.dc.gov

Subject: Support for BZA Case No. 20445

Dear Members of the Board,

I live near 106 13th Street where the new Pacci's restaurant is proposed to be opened.

Since moving to this neighborhood years ago I have felt that it's frustrating not to have a real restaurant closer than Barracks Row. There were a couple of restaurants where Pacci is trying to locate, but they failed because they were expensive overly-fancy restaurants not suited to the neighborhood. I've felt that what we really need is a normal, no-nonsense, family-friendly Italian restaurant. Finally that's exactly what we have an opportunity to have here. This can be a place where we can drop in with the kids for a quick easy dinner that they will like. Or my wife and I can sneak in a happy half-hour at the bar if we can make it home before school ends. Or go grab a quick dessert after the kids' bedtime while a grandparent watches the house. Or run back out to grab takeout if we realize we aren't going to have time to make dinner.

During the past year, with the kids at home all day it's been especially hard to find time to cook at home. All year I've wished that Pacci's would hurry up and open as an easy takeout option. I've had numerous conversations with neighbors along the lines of, "I wonder why that restaurant hasn't opened yet? I wish it had opened by now. It would be great if we finally had a family-friendly restaurant there." I was frustrated to find out that what is delaying the process is government approvals.

With respect to the restaurant's proposed use of the second floor, I suspect that one reason why so many past restaurants at this location have failed is that they have been confined to only one floor where they can have only a few tables. This has forced them to try to cater to a higher-end clientele rather than to the regular neighbors and families who live nearby. A restaurant that sells \$35 pork chops is useless as a local neighborhood restaurant, and that's what we'll keep getting so long as restaurants have to use only the small area on the first floor. What we need at this location is a basic moderately-priced restaurant, with space for families and kids to spread out. In order to support that model the restaurant has to be able to use the capacity offered by the second floor.

Having this restaurant there would be a true quality of life improvement and a welcome addition to the neighborhood. I request that BZA approve the requested relief and provide whatever other support it can to facilitate this restaurant's success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Maga

112 Kentucky Ave. SE

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20445
EXHIBIT NO.42