

# Neuman letter of support for Dinesh Tandon Restaurant

Inbox



**David Neuman** <davidalexanderneuman@hotmail.com>

Thu, Aug 22, 12:41 AM (11 days ago)

to Kirby, me

Hi Kirby,

Please register my strong support for the relief Dinesh Tandon is seeking in order to operate his proposed restaurant at 2324 North Capitol St., NW. Our food desert needed a restaurant yesterday and Mr. Tandon is an experienced and respected restaurant owner.

I support outdoor tables, late night hours, alcohol sales to go, live music, and anything else Mr. Tandon might feel would make his establishment successful.

Thank you,  
David Neuman  
43 Girard St. NE



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Letter to ANC to Support Restaurant/Cafe at Bryant and North Capital Streets

1 message

**Lola Peres** <lolaperes@gmail.com>  
To: Dinesh Tandon <dcexp1@gmail.com>  
Cc: Kevin Rapp <Kevin@rappwine.com>, Sachiko Galassetti <sgalasse@gmail.com>, Ron Peres <ron.e.peres@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 10:00 PM

TO ANC Commissioners:

I live on Bryant Street NW, 1 block away from the proposed restaurant/Cafe that Mr. Tandon is working so hard to bring to reality. I want to voice my strong support for this restaurant at North Capitol and Bryant Streets. Inspite of initial missteps in presentation and communication, Mr. Tandon, who has a successful record in the restaurant industry, is well-positioned to work with the community to create a business that will serve our residents in a positive way. The store that was there before he took ownership was failing for many years. The "corner market" business model was no longer viable and it will be several years before the Reservoir District commercial development is operational. Right now North Bloomingdale has nothing commercial within a convenient walking distance. It's clear that Mr. Tandon has made a substantial investment both personally and financially in this enterprise. Before he took ownership, the place was a rundown eyesore with overgrown untended weeds and litter. Today it is a beautifully renovated corner building just waiting to be operational. I believe there is every incentive at this time for Mr. Tandon to be a good neighbor and work to serve our community and make this a successful business for all to enjoy. The issues of concern such as noise, trash, rats and parking are issues that we are already dealing with so he will be obliged as well to work to ensure that they will be managed on an ongoing basis. It is my hope that the ANC Commissioners will be objective about the value of this restaurant/Cafe to the neighborhood and support Mr. Tandon for the greater good of our community. If this restaurant is blocked, my fear is that it could be turned into another liquor store. Just what we do not need!

Lola Peres



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for Dinesh and Nidhi Tandon (BZA Case No. 21151)

3 messages

Bill Palombi &lt;bill.palombi@gmail.com&gt;

Thu, Aug 15, 2024 at 9:09 PM

To: "Carver, Fred (SMD 5E03)" &lt;5E03@anc.dc.gov&gt;, 5E02@anc.dc.gov, 5E05@anc.dc.gov

Cc: dcexp1@gmail.com

Hi Fred, Karla, and Kevin,

Could you please ensure that this letter makes it to the Office of Zoning?

Office of Zoning and neighbors,

As a longtime resident and homeowner in Bloomingdale, I am writing to voice my support of Dinesh and Nidhi Tandon's BZA Case No. 21151 for Indigo Chapter 2 at [2324 North Capitol Street](https://www.google.com/search?q=2324+North+Capitol+Street).

My wife and I have known Dinesh and Nidhi for years. They are present owner operators of their restaurant and engaged members of their community. We would be lucky to have them as invested business owners in Bloomingdale.

We enjoy our ability to walk to the restaurants that we and other Bloomingdale residents love - Ren Hen, Boundary Stone, the Pub & the People, and more. The original Indigo is one of the few restaurants that we are willing to get in the car for. We know many Bloomingdale residents that do the same. Indigo Chapter Two would be within walking distance for us and thousands of others. That means fewer car trips. In aggregate, inviting restaurants like Indigo Chapter Two to our neighborhoods reduces the overall level of traffic in our city, as well as the noise, pollution, and safety issues it creates.

Our block includes two restaurants, Bacio and Ren Hen, as well as a coffee shop, Creative Grounds. After living here for nearly three years, we do not have any issues with noise, parking, deliveries, or pick ups. Like the rest of our neighborhood, we've had rat challenges, but we don't have any reason to think that it is primarily driven by these businesses.

More importantly, these businesses bring substantial benefits to our block. The customers that these businesses draw keep criminals away and make our block safer. We have lower property crime - car and home break ins - than nearby blocks. These restaurants provide venues to see and get to know our neighbors, fostering community. Their owners and employees are engaged members of our community and often residents themselves.

Having experienced the benefits of engaged local business owners on our block in Bloomingdale and seen the positive impact that Dinesh and Nidhi have had with the original Indigo, I am enthusiastically supportive of welcoming Indigo Chapter Two to the neighborhood.

Best,  
Bill Palombi

Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

Thu, Aug 15, 2024 at 11:16 PM

To: Bill Palombi &lt;bill.palombi@gmail.com&gt;

Thank you Bill for such a supportive and a strongly worded letter.  
I appreciate your support and your business.

Sarah Mimms McLeod  
140 Bryant St NW

To ANC 5E Commissioners, the ABCA board and whomever it may concern:

My name is Sarah Mimms McLeod, I am a 17-year resident of Washington, D.C., and an 18-month resident of the Bloomingdale neighborhood. I am writing in strong support of Dinesh Tandon's plans to open a new restaurant at 2324 North Capitol Street NW, the old Hillview Market space.

I live at 140 Bryant St NW, one-and-a-half blocks away from the proposed new restaurant, with my husband and our dog, with a new baby on the way. When we first started dating, my husband lived at Parker Flats. I also take the bus to work from a stop at Bryant and North Capitol Street NW, across the street from the proposed restaurant. I have strong ties to this neighborhood, I love living here and I'm starting a new family here. I believe this new restaurant will only enhance our strong and close-knit community, and I was thrilled to hear the news that the same folks behind Indigo were opening here.

I do not know Mr. Tandon personally, but I have dined many times at his Indigo restaurant and gotten takeout from it. I previously lived at 2nd and I St. NW, less than three blocks from Indigo and found it to be a wonderful enhancement to my community there: A great restaurant and a gathering place for neighbors that was respectful of the area. I am confident that this new restaurant will be a similar gathering place and Mr. Tandon, through his engagement with the neighborhood so far, seems more than willing to work with neighbors to address any concerns that may arise.

Many of the concerns that I've heard voiced about this project feel unfairly targeted, particularly at a local Indian restaurant. I have seen neighbors submit concerns about patrons drinking in a restaurant that serves alcohol — though the new site is a 10- or 15-minute walk from other establishments that do the same (Boundary Stone, El Camino, The Red Hen, The Pub & The People, to name just a few of our wonderful local bars and restaurants). Others have raised worries about parking that would be better directed at the massive McMillan Development (which I also strongly support) just up the road and about traffic and noise on the already loud North Capitol corridor. Mr. Tandon seems to be willing to work with neighbors on noise, if that becomes an issue, as well as rodents, a fact of city life. Frankly, I don't believe you could find another occupant for this space as willing to work with the neighborhood as Mr. Tandon has demonstrated he is, and I question whether this loud minority of opposition would accept any other business interested in this space.

Bloomingdale is very special, and it prides itself as a friendly and welcoming neighborhood. It's in that spirit that we should embrace a **small, local business** moving to our area. I believe I reflect the views of many of our neighbors in saying, we should welcome them with open arms.

I am happy to share additional messages of support with whomever may be interested. I look forward to having another nearby local business to patronize.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mimms McLeod  
140 Bryant St NW  
[sarah.mimms@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.mimms@gmail.com)



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for Indigo 2 at North Capitol and Bryant

1 message

**Louis Preonas** <lpreonas@gmail.com>  
To: 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: dcexp1@gmail.com

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 1:59 PM

Hi Kevin,

I live in Bloomingdale in your ANC (on the north side of the unit block of V Street NW), and it has come to my attention that Dinesh Tandon is trying to open up a second location of the popular restaurant Indigo at the corner of North Capitol and Bryant St. However, I am upset and disappointed to hear that this effort is receiving pushback from neighbors due to (seemingly unfounded) anxieties about smells, noise, and rats.

Our family has lived in Bloomingdale for over 4 years, and I have frequently walked/run past this perpetually empty storefront. Adding a new restaurant to our neighborhood would be a huge benefit to the community, since we only have a handful of restaurant options within a 10-minute walk. It could also raise property values, which would make me happy as a homeowner. (And in my capacity as an economist, I will add that academic research finds economic benefits of mixed-use zoning in predominantly residential neighborhoods, due to increased amenities).

North Capital is already a busy and loud street, so I am skeptical of any pushback related to increased noise levels from turning this empty storefront into a restaurant. I am also confident that Dinesh will know how to handle waste management (and rat-related issues), given that he already runs a successful and popular community restaurant near the H Street corridor.

Speaking of Indigo, it is one of my family's favorite Indian restaurants. The food is so delicious that we made a 25-person take-out order for a celebratory family gathering two days before our wedding in 2022. Anyone who has eaten at the K St location can attest to the warm, community-centric vibe. Bloomingdale would really benefit from having another shared space, especially one so close to the (beautiful) new Reservoir Park.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support Dinesh in his efforts to open Indigo 2 in our neighborhood!

Thanks,  
Louis



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for Dinesh and Nidhi Tandon (BZA Case No. 21151)

1 message

Megan Poole &lt;poolemm11@gmail.com&gt;

To: 5E03@anc.dc.gov, 5E02@anc.dc.gov, 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: "dcexp1@gmail.com" <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 8:43 PM

Dear ANC 5E:

As a homeowner in Bloomingdale, I am writing to voice my strong support of Dinesh and Nidhi Tandon's BZA Case No. 21151.

Before moving to the unit block of Seaton PI NW (ANC 5E3), I lived near Dinesh and Nidhi's first restaurant, Indigo, for nearly 10 years. Indigo was my favorite part of my old neighborhood. More than a restaurant, Indigo provided a 'third place' for our community. I made friends, went on dates, and hosted birthday celebrations at Indigo. After teaching my now-husband to love Indigo as much as I did, we eventually signed our marriage paperwork and hosted a wedding reception for our families at Indigo. We're now teaching our 11 month old son to love Indian food at Indigo.

I recognize that Dinesh and Nidhi opening their second location would be a change for the residents around 2324 N Capitol Street. It has sparked concerns from residents about potential impacts - parking, noise, deliveries, and rodents. My block in Bloomingdale includes two restaurants, Bacio and Ren Hen, as well as a coffee shop, Creative Grounds. After living here for nearly three years, we've not experienced these adverse effects. The only time we struggle to find street parking is when the street is being cleaned. We don't hear any noise from these businesses and don't notice the deliveries. We absolutely notice rodents along streets and alleys, but the removal of a dead tree in our alley, along with the rats' nest beneath it, showed us that the problem wasn't specific to the restaurants and their trash.

More importantly, we appreciate the substantial benefits these businesses bring to our block. The customers that these businesses draw keep criminals away and make our block safer. Our block has much lower property crime - car and home break ins - than nearby blocks. These businesses foster a strong sense of community. They provide venues to see and get to know our neighbors. Their owners and their employees are engaged and invested as neighbors as well.

Having experienced the benefits of engaged local business owners on our block in Bloomingdale, and having experienced the outsized positive impact Dinesh and Nidhi had on my previous neighborhood, I am enthusiastically supportive of welcoming Indigo Chapter Two to the neighborhood.

Best,



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for Indigo 2 at North Cap and Bryant

6 messages

**Claire Perkins** <clairefisherperkins@gmail.com>  
To: 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: dcexp1@gmail.com

Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 8:57 PM

Hi Kevin,

I live in Bloomingdale in your ANC (at 1st and V on the north side) and wanted to offer my support for Dinesh and the restaurant he's trying to open up at North Cap and Bryant (Indigo 2). I've been to the original Indigo near H St and the food and atmosphere are great and it's always packed. I've often heard from friends in the city that it's their favorite Indian restaurant. We only have a few restaurants here in Bloomingdale as you know and could certainly use both more restaurants and more variety. Indigo 2 seems like a great complement to our current options and also a great use of a currently vacant space on North Cap.

We used to rent a place on Channing between 1st and North Cap before buying a home and moving down to V St and I pass by that empty spot all the time on runs and often wish something nice would go in there. I can't really understand the pushback - it seems like Dinesh and his team will know well how to manage things like noise and trash given they've been running a successful and popular community restaurant near H St for many years now. North Cap is also super loud as a street, so I can't really see how a small restaurant is going to be an issue from a noise perspective. It seems like a huge bummer that some seemingly unfounded anxieties would keep a great neighborhood restaurant from opening up to serve our community.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support Dinesh and make the case for good, local Indian food and less empty storefronts for all of us!

Thanks!  
Claire

—  
Claire Perkins  
clairefisherperkins@gmail.com

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**Dinesh Tandon** <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 9:39 PM

To: Martin Sullivan <msullivan@sullivanbarros.com>, Sarah Harkcom <sharkcom@sullivanbarros.com>

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**Dinesh Tandon** <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 9:41 PM

To: Claire Perkins <clairefisherperkins@gmail.com>

Thank you Claire for writing such a nice and effective email. Your support sure brings a ray of hope.  
Will keep you posted about future meetings.

Thank you  
Dinesh Tandon  
[Quoted text hidden]



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Indigo Bloomingdale

3 messages

**Aiden Byrne** <aidenbyrne91@gmail.com>  
To: 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: Dinesh Tandon <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2024 at 10:23 AM

Hi Kevin,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the opening of Indigo in our neighborhood. As a resident of Bloomingdale, I believe this addition will greatly enhance our community's dining options (especially near where Indigo intends on opening) and cultural diversity.

Indigo operates a successful location in NOMA, where it has garnered an impressive 4.5-star rating on Google with over 1,800 reviews, which includes my 5 star review that I left over a year ago (see below). This speaks volumes about the quality of their food and service. Additionally, it has been featured in several "must-try" Indian restaurant articles in the DC area, further highlighting its reputation and popularity.

Having such a well-regarded establishment in our neighborhood would not only provide us with delicious and authentic Indian cuisine but also contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and attracting visitors. The presence of this restaurant would undoubtedly enrich our community and offer a unique dining experience that many residents and visitors would appreciate, especially with the exciting opening of the Reservoir District.

I strongly believe that supporting the opening of this restaurant aligns with our community's values of diversity, inclusivity, and economic growth. I urge the commission to support their application and allow them to bring their exceptional culinary offerings to our neighborhood.

Please let me know if you have any questions!



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Indigo in Bloomingdale

2 messages

Kuan Ling Liu <k.liu925@gmail.com>  
To: 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: dcexp1@gmail.com

Fri, Aug 9, 2024 at 2:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well. I am a resident in the Bloomingdale community and I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed restaurant in our neighborhood. While I understand that some residents have voiced concerns about the potential disruption caused by construction, I believe that the long-term benefits of having a new restaurant far outweigh the temporary inconveniences.

I am confident that with careful planning and communication, the construction process can be managed in a way that minimizes disruption to residents. I trust that the restaurant developers will take the necessary steps to ensure that the project is completed efficiently and with respect for our neighborhood.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I believe that the addition of a new restaurant will be a positive development for our community, and I sincerely hope that the project will move forward.

Kind regards,  
Kevin

Dinesh Tandon <dcexp1@gmail.com>  
To: Martin Sullivan <msullivan@sullivanbarros.com>, Sarah Harkcom <sharkcom@sullivanbarros.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2024 at 3:17 PM

[Quoted text hidden]



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for restaurant on North Capitol and Bryant

1 message

Daniel Kandy &lt;dkandy@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 12:18 PM

To: 5E01@anc.dc.gov, 5E02@anc.dc.gov, 5E06@anc.dc.gov, 5E03@anc.dc.gov, 5E04@anc.dc.gov, 5E05@anc.dc.gov  
Cc: Dinesh Tandon <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Dear ANC members,

I own a home across north capitol on Girard Street in ANC 5E03. I want to write to voice my support for the new restaurant being opened by Dinesh Tandon.

I have over the years been a regular at Indigo and think it's one of the best spots in DC, and it is clearly a restaurant that is integrated into the fabric of the neighborhood, and adds value and vitality to the nearby residents. Big Bear Cafe on 1st and Florida (where I worked from 2015-2016) has had a tremendous effect of helping to build community in that area of Bloomingdale, while taking measures to reduce any negative impact on nearby neighbors.

Dinesh Tandon's restaurant has the potential to deliver those same benefits to our part of North Capitol. I strongly encourage the ANC to approve the restaurant opening, with a vibrant outdoor space, so that our neighborhood can continue to improve.

Best regards,  
Daniel Kandy

[27 Girard Street NE, 20002](mailto:27%20Girard%20Street%20NE%2C%2020002)

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Kirby Vining  
Treasurer, 5E06  
Washington, DC 20002

August 15, 2024

ANC Vining,

This letter of support is being provided to you for the proposed restaurant at 2324 North Capitol Street NW, WDC owned by Dinesh Tandon. I am in favor of a restaurant in the Bloomingdale/Stronghold neighborhood. My home is located at 2317 North Capitol Street NE, which is directly across the street from the proposed location. Although there have been numerous reasons provided by neighbors for why a restaurant is a detriment to the community, I can think of numerous reasons why a restaurant can improve the economic growth of the community and is beneficial to neighbors.

Listed are the positive reasons for a neighborhood restaurant:

- Provide jobs by employing neighborhood seniors, college and high school age young adults to work. This opportunity allows young adults to find invaluable first jobs and begin building careers in the hospitality industry.
- Boost the economy by putting money into the local budget by collecting rent, property taxes and utilities.
- Socializing with other neighbors within the community. Bringing the community together for social events, family gatherings and provide a place for camaraderie.
- Support local grocery stores.
- Restaurants make positive contributions to the community. Historically, our corner stores have supported the Stronghold Community by supporting food items and ice to our annual Block Party in addition to a monetary contribution for youth activities.

Gathering to eat has been a fundamental part of what it means to be human since our earliest days. A restaurant in our community will provide a modern-day substitute for that tribal fire where people from different households and families can come together to share meals, socialize, meet new people, catch up with old friends, gather for celebrations and even mourn our dead.

It matters to me how restaurants and other food spaces interact with our communities. I am 100% in favor of the proposed restaurant at 2324 North Capitol Street NW WDC.

Respectfully,  
Lisa Bell  
2317 North Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
301 706-9549



Dinesh Tandon &lt;dcexp1@gmail.com&gt;

## Support for Indigo 2

4 messages

Harsha Kodali <hskodali@gmail.com>  
To: "Rapp, Kevin (SMD 5E05)" <5E05@anc.dc.gov>  
Cc: dcexp1@gmail.com

Thu, Aug 15, 2024 at 11:32 AM

Hi Kevin,

We've spoken about my support for Indigo 2 but I wanted to put a note in formally.

I live in Bloomingdale in your ANC (at 1st and V on the north side) and wanted to provide support for the restaurant Dinesh is trying to open up at North Cap and Bryant (Indigo 2). The original Indigo is beloved by the community near H street and has become a staple of the neighborhood there. There is no reason that Indigo 2 would not be different and we would love to have them nearby.

The empty storefront now is a terrible reminder of what can happen when a small minority can prevent these types of establishments from becoming part of the community. The pushback seems to be confusing (noise complaints on North Capitol) or misplaced (while I understand rats are a problem, an empty storefront with an uninterested owner is significantly worse than an owner who has received plaudits from the DC health inspection department). I don't want to mention how I feel about the complaints about 'smell' beyond that I find them somewhat offensive.

A small restaurant at that location would be critical in transforming that part of Bloomingdale into a well-rounded and inclusive neighborhood. We used to live on Channing Street and it can currently feel like a thoroughfare for Maryland commuters. With the building of the Reservoir District, having Indigo there can underpin a revival of that area into a close-knit community, to which '3rd places' like Indigo are critical.

Let me know if you have any questions or if there's anything else I can do to support.

Thanks!

Harsha

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Harsha Kodali  
+1 612.356.3068 (Whatsapp)  
[hskodali@gmail.com](mailto:hskodali@gmail.com)

Rapp, Kevin (SMD 5E05) <5E05@anc.dc.gov>  
To: Harsha Kodali <hskodali@gmail.com>  
Cc: "dcexp1@gmail.com" <dcexp1@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 15, 2024 at 11:36 AM

Thank you, Harsha! We've received several letters over the past week or so. At this point, it seems there is a large enough contingent to form a group in support, or at least start a petition.

Kevin Rapp  
ANC5E05 Commissioner (*Bloomingdale*)