

Sarah Mimms McLeod
140 Bryant St NW

To Chairman Hood and the BZC:

My name is Sarah Mimms McLeod, I am a 17-year resident of Washington, D.C., and am coming up on my second year as a 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 and a new baby on the way. My husband, Paul McLeod, has lived in D.C. for 8 years, 5 of them in Bloomingdale. 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,

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