

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Shane Young <shane.alan.young@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:24 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Imtiaz, Huma (SMD 5E04)
Subject: Letter of support for BZA 21151; 2324 North Capitol Street NW
Attachments: DCDC2004612.jpg

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Good Morning,

Please see below letter of support sent to the ANC 5 Commissioners:

Good Afternoon All,

My name is Shane Young and I am a resident of the Bloomingdale neighborhood and live less than a block away from the proposed location of the second Indigo restaurant: Indigo Chapter 2.

I have been a resident of this neighborhood during most of the renovations to the 2324 building and have seen the transformation first hand. As you are all aware, the owners of Indigo have taken a run down convenience store (before picture attached) and transformed it into a great addition for a growing community and neighborhood.

Me and my partner, a property owner in the neighborhood, were shocked to see that there are commissioner protests against the opening of the restaurant. We have been watching for updates on the property as we walk our dog by there almost every day, and to our surprise we saw the recent Washington Business Journal article chronicling the pushback on this highly regarded restaurant moving in. It's even more shocking to see the reasons for the pushback being that the restaurant will have a "negative effect on peace, quiet, order and parking in the neighborhood." There is a 25 acre, 750 Million dollar development happening less than 100 yards away from the proposed restaurant, and the reason for pushback is peace, quiet, order and parking? That seems a bit far fetched that one restaurant would cause a world of headache when the growth of the neighborhood is just getting started. I agree with Commissioner Imtiaz's questioning of the rationale behind this opposition and protest.

Moreover, what statistics and or studies back up that type of claim? Parking is already going to be a hot button issue with the new Reservoir District, so the correlation there doesn't seem to compute. "Order" is a very vague term. We have run down convenience stores operating on street corners but a Michelin level restaurant is the push over the edge into chaos? I don't see how that adds up either. Lastly, I frequent Etabli, Bacio, Boundary Stone and other restaurants in the neighborhood, and all of those absolutely contribute to a more peaceful neighborhood where friends and neighbors can gather

on a patio for dinner or drinks. To say that a small restaurant is going to ruin the familial nature of our neighborhood screams that you have never been to their current establishment in NOMA. It has always been a jovial and relaxed experience.

To deny their ability to open their restaurant goes against exactly the type of development the Mayor pledged during the opening of the park and community center this past June:

"For the first time in decades, this site is not only back to productive use, but open to the public. Today, we are celebrating the transformation of underutilized land into a beautiful new recreation center and play space for the community. And we look forward to all that's on the way – housing, a grocery store, and more – all generating economic growth and job opportunities here in Ward 5."

Now, she was talking about the Reservoir District, however, that same type of growth and development radiates out from that space.

Now, I am aware that commissioner protests usually occur to have a deeper conversation around the liquor license and what type of impact it will have on the community (ie: music on patios, operating hours, clientele, etc.), and I sincerely hope that is the case here. But, if that is not the case, I would want to see what data supports such a decision.

I hope the commissioners reverse course and allow this restaurant to become part of this community. It's the only choice that makes sense given the massive changes this community will undergo in two years time.

All the Best,

Shane Young
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