

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed restaurant "Indigo 2" at 2324 North Capitol Street. I am a resident at 34 Rhode Island Avenue, just a couple of blocks away. As a frequent patron of Indigo's original location, I can attest to the high quality of their food, reasonable prices, and friendly atmosphere. Indigo1 and the owners have demonstrated their ability to serve that neighborhood and the H-street/Union Market community for over a decade. I have confidence that, based on this experience, Indigo 2 will be an excellent addition to our neighborhood, especially considering the new housing development in the nearby Reservoir District and growth of the area.

A small corner restaurant is a historically common and beneficial use in DC residential areas. Opponents' claims about traffic and rats are common complaints in the neighborhood (and the city) and existing problems that should not be exacerbated by responsible practices. Indigo 2 would create jobs, attract visitors, serve our expanding neighborhood, and enhance diversity. Other local restaurants, such as Red Hen, Boundary Stone, and others operate successfully without exacerbating parking or pest issues and provide a great deal of value to neighbors. Challenges such as parking and delivery traffic are common to all urban restaurants and are in many ways mitigated by the very walkable nature of our neighborhood.

The concerns raised about Indigo 2 are not exceptional or unique. They are common challenges faced by all food establishments in urban areas. Our neighborhood has successfully integrated other restaurants, and there's every reason to believe Indigo 2 will be a responsible addition to our community.

The proposed special exception and area variances align with the character and needs of both the neighborhood and the RF-1 zone broadly. The BZA should approve this application, allowing our community to welcome a new business that will contribute positively to our neighborhood's diversity and growth.

Many thanks,

Laura Schwartz-Henderson