



Megan Poole <poolemm11@gmail.com>

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

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Bcc: Bill Palombi <Bill.Palombi@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,

Megan Poole
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