

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Lauren Finkenthal <lhmoonga@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 3:01 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case Number 21160

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lhmoonga@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by Three Tables, The LLC, regarding the property located at 1314 21st Street, NW, Unit 1.

Ching Ching Cha has been an integral part of the local community since its relocation to 1314 21st Street, NW, in April 2023. Having been a staple in Georgetown for 25 years prior to its move, Ching Ching Cha brings a rich cultural heritage and a unique offering of artisanal teapots, pottery, and related accessories. It is an extraordinary space, curated with the utmost skill and care, and a go-to destination for me personally, whether I am simply seeking to sit and reflect in a place of calm beauty or hoping to find the perfect gift for a friend.

The pouring and sale of tea are integral to the artistic experience Ching Ching Cha has historically offered. Both are also deeply rooted in Asian culture. By allowing Ching Ching Cha to continue serving tea and selling tea-related products, the Board would not only support a local business but also preserve and promote cultural diversity within our community.

Furthermore, I believe that the granting of area variance relief from C-204.9(b) is warranted given the unique circumstances of the property. The mixed-use nature of the building, coupled with its commercial history dating back to at least 1972, presents practical difficulties in conforming strictly to zoning regulations. Denial of this relief would not only impose practical difficulties on the owner, as the pouring and sale of tea are integral to the existing art gallery use, but also risk the loss of a cherished community asset. Many people, myself included, would be devastated to see that happen.

In conclusion, I urge the Board to approve the special exception and variance relief sought by Three Tables, The LLC. Doing so would uphold the vibrancy and character of this neighborhood while ensuring the continued success of Ching Ching Cha. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Lauren Finkenthal