Good morning, Commissioners and members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I want to be clear that I'm not opposed to new restaurants or businesses coming into our neighborhood. I welcome investment and more options for residents. My concern is making sure that new businesses, particularly those operating late into the night, can coexist successfully with the residential community immediately surrounding them.

What I want to better understand is how the impact on those residential streets will be managed. We already experience noise, people drinking outside, litter, and cars driving too fast on streets like Hemlock that are used as cut-throughs. These may not all originate with any one business, but collectively they affect the people who live here.

The hours are particularly important to me. Activity that may be relatively minor during the day feels very different late at night, when residents are trying to sleep and there are fewer reasons for significant traffic or gatherings on residential streets. Customers and delivery drivers also don't necessarily stay on Georgia Avenue. They travel through the surrounding neighborhood, including smaller residential streets like Hemlock.

Litter is similar. I appreciate when businesses commit to cleaning and maintaining their own property, but the impact doesn't necessarily stop at the property line. Food containers, cups, and other trash can make their way onto nearby sidewalks, streets, and yards. The same is true of noise or people congregating and drinking after leaving an establishment. Those are much harder for an individual business to manage once someone has left its premises.

That is why I think the cumulative impact is so important. **The Board should consider what another late-night establishment adds to the cumulative impact residents are already experiencing.** And if the special exception is granted, I would like to better understand what concrete measures will be in place to manage those impacts.

For example, how will late-night noise and activity outside the establishment be addressed? How will litter beyond the immediate property be handled? How will the applicant manage pickup and delivery traffic, and what can be done to discourage drivers from speeding through residential cut-throughs like Hemlock? And importantly, if residents begin experiencing problems after the business opens, what mechanism will exist to raise those concerns and have them addressed?

I don't think these questions require the Board to choose between supporting local businesses and protecting residents. Ideally, we should be able to do both. But that requires thinking beyond what happens inside the establishment itself and considering the surrounding neighborhood, particularly during late-night hours.

I appreciate the applicant's willingness to invest in our community. I simply ask the Board to make sure that, if this use moves forward, there are meaningful and enforceable measures in place to address noise, drinking, litter, traffic, and other impacts on the residential streets around it.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspective of those of us who live nearby.

Submitted on 10/20/2026 by:
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 21503
EXHIBIT NO. 29