

**Testimony of Kenan Jarboe,
ANC 6B
before the Zoning Commission
ZC # 05-21A – Pet Facilities
June 29, 2006**

My name is Kenan Jarboe, Commissioner for ANC 6B05, testifying on behalf of ANC 6B.

At its regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on June 13, 2006 with a quorum present, ANC 6B voted 7-0-0 to oppose the zoning text amendments proposed by the Office of Planning to permit and define Pet Grooming Facilities, Pet Shops, Veterinary Hospitals and Animal Shelters as special exception uses within the C-2, C-3, C-4, C-M and M Zone Districts (ZC case #05-21A).

While we understand and agree with the purpose of this text amendment, we believe that the wording of the amendment will have the unintended result of banning any new pet shop, pet grooming facility and veterinary clinic from neighborhood commercial areas. Our concern stems from the inclusion of the outright ban on pet stores, pet grooming facilities and veterinary facilities that “abut an existing residential use, or Residence Zone” – sections 737.3, 738.3 and 739.3. Since all most all of the C-2 zoned areas on Capitol Hill are commercial strips which back up to residential areas, this prohibition could result in the complete elimination of such pet facilities in our area, to the detriment our neighborhoods and our residents (both two legged and four legged).

We agree with the ban on animal shelters abutting residential areas, as well as the previous text amendment defining animal boarding and prohibiting such uses in areas abutting residential areas. In each of these cases, the size and potentially large number of animals involved call for this special treatment. However, this is not the case for pet shops, pet grooming facilities (especially where the number of animals allowed in controlled for in the definition) and veterinary clinics.

Please also note that the definition of veterinary hospital may be overly broad for the purposes of this text amendment, as the wording captures any type of “establishment used by a licensed veterinarian for the practice of veterinary medicine.” The size of establishments under this definition could range from the large pet hospital to the small neighborhood veterinarian office. It is our concern that in attempting to prevent large pet hospitals from impinging on residential areas (a goal we agree with), the text amendment will ban small vet offices from our neighborhoods.

We agree with the thrust of the text amendment that these types of facilities should be subject to careful scrutiny where they might impact a residential area. We therefore suggest that the wording of the text amendment be changed so that a special exception is required if the uses abuts a residential zone.

With that change, ANC 6B could support the amendment. But ANC 6B must opposes the text amendment as currently written.

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 05-21A
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-21A
EXHIBIT NO. 14