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Bertha Holliday, Ph.D.  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 5E07

Re: Jam Doung

Feb. 18, 2019

Dear Commissioner Holliday,

Thank you for facilitating the conversation on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 about Jam Doung's proposal to expand their restaurant into the property next door. This proposal represents enormous progress, as Jam Doung's investment in the space will bring new life into a vacant commercial business storefront that has been an eyesore for years. Kudos to you and all of the other Randolph Place NW residents for all the work you did prior to Saturday's meeting to hash out an operating agreement with Jam Doung, which we revisited at that time for approval and signature.

Since 2000, Jam Doung has been a **major cultural asset** in our community. The agreement we codified at Saturday's meeting will make them an even better neighbor and able to serve an even larger share of the city. I was thrilled that the meeting ended with a consensus among residents to uphold the previous list of conditions for supporting Jam Doung's expansion, with minor tweaks. This was an excellent outcome.

Part of the reason why I came out to Saturday's meeting was that I was recently presented with an online poll about Jam Doung's proposed expansion that I suspected was missing necessary context for properly making my voice heard. As a fellow social science researcher, I hope you can appreciate my concerns about polling methodologies that reflect growing communicative, technological and other divides our community.

Listserves, online polls and social media can be useful tools, but given our demographics, we know they leave out a disproportionate number of senior, African American, and immigrant residents who lack Internet access and use different cultural scripts for communicating with neighbors and sharing information. The U.S. Census still relies on door-to-door field agents for this reason. For a single city block such as ours, the gold standard is to use face-to-face contact and printed fliers to announce meetings to discuss and gather input on issues. This has been the case since I moved here in 2000 and began raising my children on Randolph Place.

I was also concerned to learn Saturday that an online poll was created without input from the ANC or Jam Doung.

On the issue of operating hours, Jam Doung, currently located at **1726 North Capitol Street NW** could reasonably expect the similar treatment as Pub & the People, another restaurant which also took over an abandoned commercial property exactly one block away at **1648 N. Capitol Street NW** in 2015. Pub & the People's posted operating hours are 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. weeknights and 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. on Fridays Saturdays. Holding these businesses to different standards may raise equity issues that could be subject to legal or other scrutiny in the future.

Therefore, I was pleased that both owners and residents voluntarily agreed to last seating at 10 p.m. and closing by midnight, up to seven days a week.

On Randolph Place, we have an amazing community of warm, tolerant, city-loving people. The agreement we reached Saturday reflects a relationship of mutual respect and appreciation for longtime business owners who have invested in and served our community for nearly two decades. I am excited about the possibilities for this relationship and investment to continue to grow in the future.

Thanks again for your all of your help and hard work on this.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Hopkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Natalie Hopkinson, Ph.D.