COA Contact Us: Late hours approved by DRCA for Mt Vernon Ave restaurants

jessica livingston to: rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

I am deeply concerned these restaurants existing at all, and the late hours especially. I think the type of restaurants planned - franchise pre-made frozen food and the "bar atmosphere" with a zillion big screen TVs together with the late hours and outdoor seating will detract in a very big way from the character of the Del Ray neighborhood. Please do what you can to preserve the neighborhood as one that caters to and meets the needs and lifestyles of the people who actually live, own property and pay the taxes for the neighborhood. Advertising outside the neighborhood the late night hours, the alcohol, the TVs and the inexpensive fast food will not bring into the neighborhood people who will enrich it or support the other businesses or make a safe
and quite night time for the neighbors. I ask that, at a minimum, you accept the City Staff recommendations. Or, at the very least, please require that outdoor dining end at 10pm daily and the hours of operation end at 11pm during the week.
COA Contact Us: Pork Barrel BBQ - Support
william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,
rob.krupicka

Please respond to Charlie Roberts.


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Charlie
Last Name: Roberts
Street Address: 2638 Ft Farnsworth Rd 2B
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22303
Phone: 703-329-9446
Email Address: croberts@psda.org
Subject: Pork Barrel BBQ - Support
I work in Del Ray and wish to appeal to the city council the need for a
diversity of restaurants located along Mount Vernon Avenue. I have been a
lifelong resident of the area and currently reside in the Alexandria
section of Fairfax County. As such I choose to utilize public
transportation to travel to and from my place of employment located on
Monroe Avenue. Traveling out of Del Ray for lunch usually is not an
option.

I was pleased to learn that there will soon be a BBQ restaurant
opening on Mt Vernon Avenue called Pork Barrel BBQ. Please consider the
effort the owners are putting forth to realize this opening. By allowing
this restaurant to open the City will improve the neighborhood in several
ways:
We must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria
and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community. I personally
will visit the establishment often and this will generate tax dollars as a
result of the meals I will purchase.

I appreciate all the owners have
done to address issues and concerns of neighbors, including compromising on the hours of operation.

I support any new business located in Del Ray, I
have worked in this neighborhood since 1993 and have witnessed a renaissance of sorts as the area becomes more popular.

I hope that this place of business will be allowed to have hours that extend until late in the evening as the establishments in other areas in the region such as Arlington and DC. Customers visiting my place of business will benefit by this dining option.

In summary, I support Pork Barrel BBQ having hours of operation that extend to 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends.
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Jeffrey
Last Name: Schweiger
Street Address: 203 Yoakum Pkwy, Apt. 1211
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304-3734
Phone: 7034619632
Email Address: jschweig@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray

Even though I am a West End Alexandrian (extreme west end - right on the border with Fairfax), in the past I have patronized the establishments in Del Ray frequently, especially when I worked in Crystal City. I'd like to take this opportunity to voice support for the Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray. I've known Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn for a number of years and appreciate their commitments to quality dining options in the City of Alexandria.

Additionally, I appreciate all the owners have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including compromising on the hours of operation.

I support having late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that the city support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends. These hours were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee, and the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted in
support of these hours of operation.

We must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community. Keep our tax dollars in Del Ray, and not in Washington D.C. and Arlington, by allowing late night dining options in Del Ray. This encourages both Alexandrians to spend their money in Alexandria as well as enhancing Alexandria as a destination dining location.

In closing I

reiterate my urging of City Council to support the compromise hours, endorsed by the Del Ray Citizens Association, and support locally owned business.

Sincerely yours,
Jeffrey M. Schweiger
Late Night Dining in Del Ray

As a citizen and homeowner in the Del Ray area, I'd like to express my excitement over the Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion projects in Del Ray. There has been an issue about keeping these restaurants open past 10 pm and think it would be great for Del Ray to have late night dining options as many of us have to go elsewhere.

I ask that the city support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends.

These hours were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee, and the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted in support of these hours of operation. It would be a great asset to the community and to locals looking for a neighborhood spot.

I feel we must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community and keep our tax dollars in Del Ray, and not in Washington D.C. and Arlington, by allowing late night dining.
options in Del Ray.
COA Contact Us: Mango Mike comes to Del Ray

Suzanne Kratzok to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Please respond to Suzanne Kratzok

Time: [Fri May 07, 2010 13:24:34] Message ID: [21445]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Suzanne
Last Name: Kratzok
Street Address: 300 West Masonic View
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-548-6084
Email Address: skratzok@comcast.net
Subject: Mango Mike comes to Del Ray
This is a destination restaurant that will draw everyone -- not just the

Comments: locals. Will be a great boon to business. How much worse will this be that
the fumes from the old gas station?
Dear Ms. Jacobs:

This responds to your email to Mayor Euille enumerating concerns about the application for a new restaurant at 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue. We too attended the open house hosted by Mike Anderson the other night and listened to the comments there. We thank you for the information you provided in your email and share with you the following:

First, the application for the new restaurant is currently before the city as a special use permit, which is required for any restaurant in the CL zone. The SUP process is designed to ask the very questions you have raised and to determine as an overall matter whether the proposed use will be compatible with its surroundings. We are in the middle of that process now. The matter is scheduled for hearing on May 4 at the Planning Commission, and on May 15 before City Council. You may participate in these public hearings, which are required precisely to allow all interested parties to speak and share their views with the decision makers.

In addition, prior to the public hearings, Planning and Zoning staff will provide a staff report with its recommendations and, if the recommendation is for approval, with those conditions staff feels are necessary. Almost all restaurants in the City operate under the authority of a special use permit, and under those conditions imposed by the City to ensure that the operation will be able to coexist with its neighbors and with the neighborhood as a whole. Staff is currently reviewing the 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue application and determining what impacts can be expected from the restaurant and whether there are conditions the City can require which will ameliorate those impacts. While it is too early in our work to determine precisely what any conditions for the restaurant may be recommended, I can assure you that we are looking at the issues of restaurant hours, smoke and odors, traffic and parking, lighting in the parking lot and delivery locations and hours. In addition, it is a standard part of the SUP process and building permit process that restaurants must comply with all aspects of the Building Code, the Fire Code, and Health Department regulations, including accessibility requirements. No restaurant may open that does not meet the requirements of those agencies, and they are reviewing the SUP application now.

We hope this information is helpful to you and encourage you to continue to participate in the SUP process by sharing your views in the form of letters and testimony. If we can provide additional information to you, or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Barbara Ross
Deputy Director
Planning and Zoning Department
(703) 746-3802
Dear Mayor Euille:

We've resided on E. Oxford Avenue in Del Ray for almost 30 years and have greatly appreciated and benefited from the improvements to Del Ray and Mt. Vernon Ave that have occurred over the years. We survived Mac's bar and finding drunks asleep on our front porch, and now enjoy a wide variety of amenities that make Del Ray one of the best neighborhoods in the metro-DC area! We're excited about having even more variety in restaurant options in our immediate Del Ray neighborhood. However, we're compelled to share with you our concerns about the special use permit (SUP) requested at 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave (tax map reference 034.02-08-08).

We took the opportunity to meet with Mr. Anderson and his business partners during an "open house" held at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center on March 31, 2010. Unfortunately, we felt that the information provided did not sufficiently address our concerns, despite having asked very direct questions. We specifically asked about request for very late hours of operation, ventilation and filtration system to manage potential smoke/particulate pollution, the side-street entrance, restrooms and ADA compliance.
Mr. Anderson stated at the beginning of the meeting that he'd read all of the correspondence on the Del Ray Citizens Group list-serve, and used this information to prepare an agenda for the meeting. However, we felt that he otherwise came to the meeting "empty-handed". This was an ideal opportunity for him to acknowledge neighborhood concerns and provide documentation and evidence on how he would rectify or minimize the problems. Unfortunately, this was not the case and his comment was to "just trust us, we'll do right by Del Ray."

#1 Commercial service low zone

Del Ray is designated as a CSL zone neighborhood (Sec. 4-300 CSL), allowing light service and businesses to operate in a manner that maintains the character of the neighborhood's residential areas and properties. However, it seems that many of the requests in the SUP may not be in compliance with that designation, potentially resulting in a nuisance factor or even detriment to the nearby residential properties.

#2 Hours of operation:

This is a primarily residential neighborhood – the request of 2:00 am closing hours are not consistent with Mr. Anderson's description that this restaurant is a "family style" restaurant/bar. This request is also significantly later than the business hours for neighboring restaurants within a six-to-ten block radius.

Also, in reviewing the websites for Mr. Anderson's other restaurants, their closing times are 12:30 am Mon-Sat, 11:30 pm Sunday. It should be noted that all of the other establishments managed or owned by Mr. Anderson are in more commercial areas of Alexandria City. When asked why a later closing hour in a more residential neighborhood, the rationale given was to "capture a younger crowd that often enjoys late-night drinks in lounges/bars." One partner stated this would "still be family-oriented – parents could go out for a drink after putting their children to bed for the night."
Our concern is for excessive noise late at night as well as the potential for drunken drivers. Late-night restaurant/bar patrons are typically NOT families, and could potentially be more rowdy/noisier in the late night/early morning hours. In addition, bar patrons are also typically NOT families, and could also be noisier and driving with impaired judgement.

We request closing times of no later than 11:00 pm Mon-Sat and 10:00 pm Sunday, and outdoor dining ending by 10:00 pm nightly. This will maintain consistency w/ other restaurants in this neighborhood of Del Ray.

#3 Proposed food delivery times:

According to the SUP, Mr. Anderson requests a 4:00 am food delivery time. He stated that the driver would turn off the truck engine. Mr. Anderson stated that this is based on a single driver being assigned to this location with one particular delivery company. Furthermore, the driver would have keys to the restaurant so that he could place all foods in the cooler – all without supervision.

We object to the 4:00 am delivery time, as it may violate Alexandria City noise ordinance, especially with the noise and exhaust pollution. It has been our experience that trucks making deliveries to other businesses in the area typically do keep the engines running during deliveries – this is noisy and increases air pollution.

We request deliveries to occur no earlier than 7:00 am, with trucks parking ONLY on Mt. Vernon Avenue, engines off. If the requested 4:00 am delivery time was approved, and if the 2:00 am closing time were also approved (employees not leaving until 2:30 or 3:00 am), then activity would occur at the restaurant for almost 24-hours daily. This is an unreasonable burden for the
Health effects from pollution due to smoke, odor, particle and/or noise: related ventilation/filtration system, and/or roof-top HVAC equipment

Mr. Anderson has stated that he intends to purchase a Southern Pride model SPK-500 combined gas/wood BBQ smoker. The operation manual clearly states this requires daily cleaning of wood/ash debris and oil/grease as well as filters and ducts. Otherwise, proper filtration and function of the smoker could be compromised, and may result in fires.

When specifically asked about reducing undesired emissions from the smoker, Mr. Anderson’s response was that “Southern Pride had no solutions, since (according to Southern Pride) this problem had not previously occurred.” However, several residents of Del Ray have undertaken informal research into the problems as well as solutions of BBQ smoker emissions. It has been found that the satisfactory solution to the problem is installation an extensive filtration system.

In addition, according to information obtained from Southern Pride website, if the floor plan included within the SUP is correct, the position of BBQ smoker is not properly configured. The floor plan also does not provide any location for firewood storage.

Furthermore, despite asking the question, there was no information given regarding proper exhaust/filtration/ventilation of the Asian fusion wok cooking equipment. This portion of the restaurant is immediately adjacent to the Dairy Godmother. It would be important to separate the exhaust from intake, and especially separating BBQ exhaust from intake for neighboring businesses (Dairy Godmother, St. Elmo’s, UPS store). The absence or improper placement of appropriate exhaust/filtration/ventilation system may result in a negative impact on that adjacent business.
#5 Increased traffic/parking:

Again, this is a primarily residential neighborhood and we question whether there is sufficient parking allocated for the expected number of patrons. Even now, patrons to the area often have trouble finding parking spots, and we often find our driveway partially or totally blocked because of this. This would further compound the problem of inadequate parking available to businesses currently established within the same block.

We also have concerns for ongoing speeding as well as parking violations, especially if the side-entrance (possibly “take-out”) door remains on the E. Oxford Ave side of the property. Patrons coming to pick up their order may find it easier to “sit” on E. Oxford Ave (currently designated as a “no parking” zone) while they dash in/out rather than park in the designated lot. This creates significant traffic and safety hazards.

In addition, the take-out delivery driver (to be hired by the restaurant) often may have limited time to make appropriate delivery. Even w/ a stop sign at the intersection of E. Oxford and Clyde, we’ve seen numerous drivers run through that intersection even during Mt. Vernon Elementary School arrival and dismissal times. It’s possible that this to-be-hired driver may perform in a similar fashion, and the consequences concern us greatly.

#6 Inadequate toilet stalls for the number of patrons:

In discussing the number of toilet stalls proposed on the floor-plan included with the SUP, the architect indicated that that was not the latest, correct floor plan. Even with that information, the SUP lists the potential of about 170 seats for restaurant/bar patrons.

From what we have seen, the
outdated floor plan in the SUP shows only one water closet per sex, plus one "lavatory" with three water closets but no entry-door to the lavatory. We are totally confused as to the use of the three-person water closet – there is no door to protect the patrons from potential noise, odor or to provide privacy. This adjoins both the kitchen and one of the dining rooms. If this is to be a "unisex" lavatory, this is in violation of the code requirement of separate facilities for each sex (Chapter 29, Paragraph 2902.2 of the Alexandria City Building Code, 2006 Virginia Building Code), as well as in violation Chapter 4 of the 2006 Alexandria City Plumbing Code.

Further, it is our understanding that, per Chapter 29 of the Alexandria City Building Code (2006 Virginia Building Code) and Chapter 4 of the 2006 Alexandria City Plumbing Code, 1 water closet is required per sex for each 75 patrons in restaurants and for each 40 patrons in bars. This is a combination restaurant/bar, and even using the 75 patron requirement there seems to be an inadequate number of designated water closets per sex in the design.

In addition, there is no information on the outdated plan that guarantees accessibility of these water closets or restroom facilities for persons with disabilities (per accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act). In discussing this with the architect at the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. McAllister stated that Mr. Anderson's criteria was to maximize seating in the dining areas. This resulted in him designing restroom facilities that were not in conformance with ADA guidelines.

#7 Security and lighting in the parking lot:
What security measures will be provided in the parking lot, to protect both patrons as well as neighbors in the immediate area? Due to time restrictions, we were unable to ask this question.
We request that the exterior parking lot lighting be designed so that the parking lot is illuminated towards the back of the building, and not aimed into neighboring houses.

#8 Waste management/pest control:

Although the SUP states that waste will be picked up four days each week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday) the SUP does not state at what hours of the day this will occur.

We request that waste pick-up occur no earlier than 7:00 am weekdays and 9:00 am weekend, and no later than 7:00 pm each day.

Furthermore, there is no proposal for adequate management of pest control. While there is probably no neighborhood that is totally pest-free, we want to keep the pest problem at a minimum.

Again, we are looking forward to having these restaurants in Del Ray!

We are in support of this new business venture but with the requested concessions. We hope these issues can be appropriately resolved before the occupancy permit is issued. We also specifically request that our concerns be addressed in the SUP, with an additional clause for re-evaluation in 90 days, as well as with a one-year review.

Thank you for giving our requests due consideration. We look forward to further discussing this SUP at the next Land Use Committee meeting on April 8, 2010.

--

Linda Jacobs

Bruce D. Condit
106 E Oxford Avenue
Alexandria VA

22301
703-549-2713
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Heidi Dickens

Hog Thaid SUP

Hail to Thee Most Honored Leaders of the Alexandria Community:

I live in Del Ray and I have reviewed the SUP application by Hog Thaid, LLC.

The proposed restaurant will be located at 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue, in the neighborhood of Del Ray, with Commercial Low Zoning and subject to a very specific Mount Vernon Overlay. The restaurant will be located on the same block as several residential homes and located one block from the Mount Vernon Elementary School.

In SUP #2010-0011, the Applicant asks: (i) to operate one 6,000 square foot restaurant Sunday through Friday from 11:30am to 2:00am and on Saturday from 7:30am to 2:00am, (ii) to vent up to 2 and ½ stories, (iii) to produce up to 400 bags of trash per day, (iv) to have off street loading beginning at 4:00am daily and continuing until 5:00pm with trucks parked off Mount Vernon Avenue only, (v) to have outdoor dining, and
(vi) to offer carry out service.

Comments:
I support the SUP with the following changes to ensure the restaurants are in keeping with the commercial low zoning, Mount Vernon overlay, and family-friendly character of Del Ray: (i) a change in hours so that the restaurant closes by or before 11:00pm nightly (with any outdoor dining to end every night by 10:00pm), (ii) a change in the cooker operation to minimize the exposure to residents of smoke and cooking odors, including the installation of a required ventilation system to clean the air, (iii) off street loading hours (to be off Mount Vernon Avenue only) with precautions put into place to ensure residents/children are not disturbed before 6:00am, (iv) outdoor dining tables limited and hours of operation ceasing by 10:00pm daily, (v) no outdoor music, no live music, and decibel and property boundary limitations placed on noise emanating from property.

I respectfully ask that the SUP only be supported with these changes.

Sincerely,
Heidi Dickens
COA Contact Us: Hog Thaid SUP application # 2010-0011

William.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,
rob.krupicka

Sarah Mehaffey to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,
rob.krupicka

Please respond to Sarah Mehaffey

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Sarah
Last Name: Mehaffey
Street Address: 1408 Mt. Vernon Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-399-4328
Email Address: sarah_row@hotmail.com
Subject: Hog Thaid SUP application # 2010-0011

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Del Ray at 1408 Mt. Vernon Avenue and a member of the Del Ray Citizens Association. I have read the Application for Special Use Permit submitted by Hog Thaid, LLC seeking several exceptions to expansions of the Commercial Light Zoning restrictions associated with their tenancy at the new office building at 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave. I fully support the restaurant uses outlined in the application; however, I do not support several of the operations-related exceptions which the applicant requests, as they clearly conflict with the stated intent of the Commercial Low Zoning category which defines this area of Del Ray, and they are without precedent in even the most densely developed parts of all of Alexandria City.

I strongly urge Council to apply additional conditions limiting or modifying several of the applicant’s SUP requests:

1.) Proposed hours of operation of restaurant:
The applicant requests to operate the restaurants Sun-F 11:30 am to 2 am, and on Saturday from 7 am to 2 am Sunday morning. It is unclear what hours of operation would apply to the "city-suggested" outdoor dining area, but it is assumed that it would be open for the same spans of time. The applicant qualifies the type of activity & noise levels as "typical family style restaurant levels," however, the proposed late hours of operation indicate that noise & activity levels could exceed that of a family-oriented establishment and would definitely adversely impact the residential neighbors who live in such close proximity to the property. Furthermore, there is no question that the proposed hours of operation introduce a use and activity level far more intense than any currently on the Avenue and in fact more intense than even the Central Business District & restaurant/bar district in Old Town, most of whose restaurants & bars are open until 2 am on Fridays & Saturdays only. Three different restaurants, all open until 2 am every day of the week, within one property of residences, most certainly flies in the face of the Commercial Low Zoning category which so appropriately defines this area: "Proximity to residences requires that commercial operations be conducted at a scale and intensity commensurate with nearby residential development, be developed and designed so as to be in character with such development and be of such characteristics as not to be detrimental or a nuisance to nearby residential properties."

As a resident close to restaurants with outdoor seating, I strongly urge the Council to limit the hours of operation of these 3 establishments to an 11 pm closing on weekdays and 1 am closing on Fridays & Saturdays, with further reduced hours associated with any proposed outdoor seating area.

2.) Proposed outdoor seating: The application is unclear as to how the proposed outdoor seating area(s) would be designed, managed, and utilized. The Zoning Ordinance seems to require some sort of additional permit or at the very least a detailed description in the SUP application on how this area would operate.
"4-107 Use limitations. (A) All operations shall be
carried out within a completely enclosed building except that a temporary use
permit for occasional outdoor sales or seasonal sales or display in
conjunction with and on the same lot as an existing permitted use may be
granted by the director, which permit shall indicate the location, size,
duration and purpose of the accessory outdoor use and, if the use is
seasonal, whether the permit shall continue on an annual basis."

As a
resident close to restaurants with outdoor seating, I strongly urge Council
to request additional information in the application regarding the proposed
outdoor seating area - hours of operation, means of noise & litter
control (where & how many street-front trash receptacles? Frequency of
"monitoring?" Location, number, & means of monitoring CCTV
security cameras?) I also urge Council to consider requiring a yearly
permit be pursued, based on the seasonal nature of the outdoor seating
area, so that the business has the opportunity to address residents' concerns on a regular and ongoing basis.
3.) Proposed loading schedule:
The application indicates that loading/unloading shall occur unsupervised
as early as 4 am on most days of the week. Between a 2 am close and a 4 am
delivery schedule, it is clear that activity could be occurring at this
property on close to a 24/7 basis. This no doubt will adversely impact the
surrounding residences, creating constant disturbances related to noise,
trash, litter, parking, etc. with little recourse for any affected
residents.
I strongly urge Council to require that the applicant limit
loading times to weekdays between 6 am & 6 pm, including all deliveries
and trash pick-up.
COA Contact Us: Support of Hog Thaid, LLC and the DRCA's recommendations

Scott Farmery

to:

rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Please respond to Scott Farmery

05/11/2010 11:08 AM

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Scott
Last Name: Farmery
Street Address: 2410 Sanford Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7035188473
Email Address: scottandjoey@comcast.net
Subject: Support of Hog Thaid, LLC and the DRCA's recommendations

Mr. Mayor and City Council Members -

We strongly encourage Alexandria's City Council to follow the DRCA's recommendation in favor of Hog Thaid, LLC and the proposed hours that the residents of Del Ray approved last night by an overwhelming majority.

The hours of 12am closing Sun-Thur and 1am closing Friday and Saturday, will provide residents with a much needed late night dining option and place to grab an adult beverage.

With Hog Thaid's willingness to exclude live entertainment - the crowd there past 11pm, will be neighbors relaxing after putting their children to bed with a drink and a bite to eat.

Comments: Del Ray will remain family friendly and with the City Council's granting of the hours our residents of Del Ray voted for - will also offer something to that long forgotten demographic -
adults.

We unfortunately will not be able to attend Saturday's hearing,
but want to express our appreciation for the time expended on this much
debated matter by all.

We are looking forward to having these three
restaurants open as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Scott and Joey

Farmery
Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Sean
Last Name: Addison
Street Address: 1630 West Abingdon Drive, No. 201
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-549-1827
Email Address: addison39@gmail.com
Subject: Late Night Dining Initiative in Del Ray
Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and City Council Members:

My wife and I have been residents of Alexandria for the past 5 years, and we truly enjoy making our home in this great city. You all have done a fine job in running this city!

Recently we were made aware of the new late night dining initiative happening in the Del Ray neighborhood. We live close to this area, and are in favor of extending the hours of operation for restaurants in the Del Ray area, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. It would be nice to be able to stay close to home versus heading to other cities in the area for late night options.

Thank you for your consideration and for all your hard work!

Sean Addison
Stay late BBQ in del Ray

Please allow Pork Barrel BBQ to remain open on the week days to 12am and 2am on the weekend. Our neighborhood needs restaurants that provide these hours.

Doug Siegel
301-440-2893
Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Attached is the formal statement on behalf of the Del Ray Business Association regarding SUP #2010-0011 (Hog Thaid, LLC) for your review.

Please let me know if there is another method I should use to ensure that our statement is taken into consideration at the hearing. Also, we'd like it to be printed and shared on the "public" table if possible.

Thank you so much, as always, for your time.

Best wishes,
Jill Erber
President, Del Ray Business Association
City Council Hearing, May 15, 2010
Statement on behalf of the Del Ray Business Association
Regarding: SUP Application #2010-0011, Hog Thaid, LLC

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Regarding SUP Application #2010-0011 (Hog Thaid, LLC), the position of the Del Ray Business Association is simple: we support a business’s right to operate within the law and as the market dictates. We are hopeful that Council will approve this application as the Planning Commission recommends.

The City has come a long way with regard to making our community more business-friendly; but one need only look at how this application has proceeded to see that the current process is not working well for businesses or citizens. To be specific, we will address each of the following: 1) Emissions concerns; 2) Hours of operation; 3) Delivery route limitations.

1. Emissions Concerns: The Alexandria departments of Health, Code Administration, and T&ES control the safety and environmental impact of various establishments throughout the City. Regulations within that realm should lie solely in their hands and should be universally applied. Food preparation and emissions are already well regulated. This should be a question of enforcement of existing policies rather than a permitting roadblock to a new business that has not yet opened.

2. Hours of Operation: DRBA supports Hog Thaid in its request to stay open late. The countless hours lost by business owners and the community as a whole debating the new restaurants’ hours underlines the need for a consistently applied policy that is realistic and responsive to market demands.

3. Delivery Route Limitations: This new restaurant will undoubtedly bring in a goodly amount of tax revenues to our City. Businesses in this community generate tens of thousands of dollars that help to provide all the amenities that we all like to have, including streets and sidewalks that we all need to use. The applicant and the neighbors have come to an agreement on deliveries, but DRBA is concerned that a limiting precedent will be set for other businesses on the Avenue. The majority of the SUPs for restaurants necessitate a debate over parking and deliveries. We need a standard that is realistic, and is applied across the board.

Businesses, especially in a small community like ours, must be good neighbors. They will limit the negative impacts of their operations because that pleases the community. A happy community means happy customers. As the process currently stands, it is creating conflict between residents and business owners… this despite the fact that the majority of our business owners are also themselves residents.

If too many permit-specific regulations are placed on this establishment, what’s to stop other situational limitations from being included in every permit going forward?
Proprietors should know most of what to expect when entering into a new permit. They should not have to wait and see which issue is going to be “the big issue” this time. It’s impractical and it’s bad business for the City.

Thank you so much for your time,
Jill Erber
President, Del Ray Business Association
Good Morning,

I know this is very last minute, but I'm writing to ask your support for the extended hours requested by Restaurateur Mike Anderson when his SUP comes before Council this morning. I would be there to speak in support of this position but I am out of town visiting family this weekend.

As I am sure you will hear this morning the extended hours were endorsed by a vote of the Del Ray Citizens Association earlier this week.

I like many of my Warwick Village neighbors have long wanted a public place to gather in Del Ray that stays open a little later. Mr. Anderson’s proposed restaurant, with extended hours would be perfect.

Mt. Vernon

COA Contact Us: Please Support Extended Hours for Del Ray Restaurant

Andy Duncan to: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
05/15/2010 08:03 AM

Please respond to Andy Duncan

Time: [Sat May 15, 2010 08:03:16] Message ID: [21654]
people to the other restaurants and retailers earlier in the evening. This can be a big boost for Del Ray businesses.

Lastly, I recognize that the staff report suggest earlier closing times. I ask that you set aside those recommendations. I find it odd that staff would recommend a new restaurant have earlier closing times than several existing restaurants.

Andy Duncan
Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Maureen
Last Name: Schweers
Street Address: 2311 Commonwealth Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-838-0676
Email Address: maureen.schweers@gmail.com
Subject: Hog Thaid SUP

As a nine-year homeowner living three blocks from the proposed Hog Thaid, I wanted to express my enthusiasm about the additional dining on the Avenue -- plus my concern about an establishment bordering a residential neighborhood having extremely late hours.

I commend owner Mike Anderson for working with City planners and concerned Del Ray neighbors to negotiate the following hours:
Sunday through Thursday closing at 11 pm (last patron out at 12 am);
Friday and Saturday close at 12 am (last patron out at 1am).

I am extremely disappointed to hear that the Del Ray Citizens Association membership voted to go AGAINST the City Planning Staff and extend the hours even further, and sincerely hope that the City Council follows the recommendations of the City planning professionals.

As a
mother of three young children, I am extremely concerned about additional traffic on our street looking for parking, drunk drivers, and noise from the doors slamming, the loud conversations (all the homes in our townhouse complex have street-facing bedrooms) and the potential of increased crime.

Further, this would change the standard of hours in the community and open the way for more bars and adult-oriented establishments that stay open later, thereby fundamentally changing the neighborhood and creating more disruptions of various degrees.

I love Del Ray, patronize so many of the businesses, and have tried to give back to the community as a board member of Art on the Avenue, the Friends of Duncan Library, and our Homeowners' Association. It would be a true disappointment to see the our neighborhood lose its character as one of the top family-friendly neighborhoods in the nation (as cited by ABC News) and "most liveable" neighborhoods in the nation (as cited by Cottage Living magazine).

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.
Dear Mayor Reuter and Members of Council,

Only something really important would take me away from my last 2 days with my new granddaughter and believe it or not, I think the vote you take tomorrow on Hog Thaid is that important.

If I wasn't in Hawaii right now, I would be there in person to support their application AND their later hours. To be quick and to the point, below are items I would like to share:

1) I live in one of the most directly affected homes - my entire back yard abuts the project. I support 100% the project proposed by Hog Thaid including their revised hours they have proposed.

2) The Del Ray Citizens Association, after...
much discussion and many compromises from Hog Thaid, SUPPORTS the later hours.

3) While these hours will be later than other restaurants in the area, the community has expressed the need and desire to have a restaurant with later hours. And because the owners of this business include one of the most respected businessmen in the entire City and one of the owners is a family man that lives in Del Ray, I believe with all my heart, that of anyone being given the opportunity to stay open later, I would want it to be these individuals.

As most of you know, I have dedicated almost 20 years of my time to helping to make Del Ray one of the most sought after communities to live and to operate a business. I have serious concerns that a limited number of members in the community have made it so difficult and costly for a business to open in Del Ray, that other potential businesses will choose to go elsewhere if this trend continues or is rewarded.

I know this is a difficult decision but I hope you will listen to the majority in the community and to those that love and care so much about Del Ray and its future. I know I would never support anything that could change in a negative way, the wonderful community we have in Del Ray.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gayle Reuter
110 E. Del Ray Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
202-225-8187

PS
Attachment has nothing to do with Hog Thaid - just had to show off my new granddaughter, Kali!!

Attachment: 42aa591c9fc746fdab50e8c98938b696.jpg
To whom it may concern:

I, as a resident Alexandrian and business owner, would like to commend the folks at pork barrel BBQ and would hope that city management does what it can to make their project work in all proposed matters. I believe that innovative business approaches to dining in the Del Ray area are crucial to maintaining the positive commercial development of the area. Additionally, I think their presence will demonstrate the dedication of the Del Ray and Alexandria community to developing property values. It seems to me that extending hours as they propose are reasonable and desirable in every manner. From what I can tell, they have been very responsive to the community's concerns. I sincerely hope city management takes into account one of it's tax paying.
proud Citizen's opinions.

Best regards,
Richard Wadsworth
I support the restaurant closing one hour later weeknights and weekends
than hours recommended by staff. Mt Vernon Ave is
becoming a vibrant and
welcoming gathering place for the citizens of Del Ray and surrounding
areas. The DRCA membership
voted to support the later hours - this is a
strong indicator to the Council that this type of restaurant and its
reasonable hours
are highly desired by the community. I urge the Council
to approve the SUP with the extended hours.

Respectfully,

Richard

Griffin
James Ed Ablard

To: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

I filed the attached with the Health Department last week 5/9/2010 for review by the Alexandria Health Advisory Commission and spoke with the Chair Jerome Cordts and Vice Chair About my concerns on that day about smell restaurants. As of now I haven't heard back from them. I am asserting this ground that "smell restaurants are unwelcome" to give me standing to sue if the application is approved. I use the street frequently during the day mostly but sometimes in the evening. The whole idea of a mocking of our politicians goes on Mt. Vernon Ave. where we political activists are barely welcome during street festivals by the managers says a lot about how the mixture in the community is changing.

4ea0edde0b108ebc80fa5c1564de2937.pdf
Comments: Plans are underway to cut back our open space on the corner of Oxford Street and Mt. Vernon Ave. Current restrictions on the use of the public space along Mt. Vernon opposite this restaurant is a public scandal.

There are neighbors here on our street who built fences to prevent motorcyclists from riding up and down on the lawns at one point. Opening until 1:00 PM is not harmless. This applicant is greedy. He is already occupying the open space on the sidewalk and has a 50% parking reduction besides which means that employees who drive will be parking on side streets and leaving after 1AM in the morning.

Please do not approve this application. Turn him down for being greedy.

Attachment: 4ea0edde0b108ec80fa5c1564de2937.pdf
Applicant Pork Barrel BBQ (SUP 2010-0011) is seeking about $50,000 subsidy from the City for air pollution scrubbers for BBQ equipment to be installed at the site located on Mt. Vernon Ave at Oxford Street which is a residential area.

Recent amendments to the application leave the Council in a bind on promoting growth and in addition opening up the city more expeditiously to small businesses. Recent efforts to exclude tobacco smoke have been effective across the State. Smell of food is the next challenge with an objective to curb obesity. There are massive food industry opponents to this policy objective.

In the event, the usual reviews have been minimalized. The health department did not comment on the smell emanating from the restaurant.

The smell of BBQ is a draw to food when people should not be drawn to food. The issue of childhood obesity was the subject of 4 resolutions in the General Assembly including the Farm to School Week which is to help connect schools to more easily purchase fresh, nutrient-rich farm products; and positively impact the lifelong healthy eating behaviors of Virginia's Children. Another measure encourages local school divisions to promote daily physical activity and reduce childhood obesity. The restaurant is within 2 blocks of the Mt. Vernon Elementary School.

The 2010 General Assembly enacted legislation regarding nutritional standards for competitive foods in public schools. The new policy requires the Board of Education to work with the Department of Health to create regulations setting nutritional guidelines for all competitive foods sold to students during regular school hours.

I am on a weight reduction diet and walking for exercise regime to lose weight. I frequent Mt Vernon Ave for coffee, for mail, and for non-competitive food at the Del Ray Farmers Market on an average of once per day. The applicant will sell competitive food with the added attribute of heavy food odor. The indoor air issues also need exploration since all three restaurants share common facilities. The sushi fish restaurant will smell like barbecue and the usual individual barrier at a personal level of the nose will be disabled and the final safety gate against overripe fish will be breached.

In fast tracking this application, the public health issue of smelly restaurant Pork Barrel BBQ slipped by and the regulation fabric of the City is bent out of shape. This issue did not reach the Public Health Advisory Committee and should have.
I have been in communication with the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee and asked for their belated input to this process.
Dear City Council,

I am sending this e-mail to express my support for the three newly proposed restaurants in Del Ray, Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion. I would especially like to express my appreciation for the owners that have worked very hard to address the issues that were expressed by the neighbors, including modifying the hours of operation and limiting access to the side residential street.

I have lived in Del Ray for over 10 years and, like many, moved to this neighborhood because of the positive direction the neighborhood was moving and this most importantly included the growing and developing of the business district. I firmly believe that offering a variety of restaurant choices is a key to this development.

I have been saddened by the fact that restaurants that were interested in coming to Del Ray were unable to navigate through the...
system.

I support the late night dining options on both a personal level and also for the broader perspective that we need to continue to grow and diversify in Del Ray. I believe the citizens have spoken through the DRCA and support this idea.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kind Regards,
Trish Lese
new restaurant in Del Ray—Yeah!

I want you all to know how heartily I am looking forward to the opening of the new restaurant proposed for Mt. Vernon Avenue (Pork Barrel, etc.). Mike Anderson and his associates have gone out of their way to work with the residents in Del Ray to resolve any concerns raised. And, I really like the later operating hours...so many times, when my daughter and friends want to get dinner out a little later in the evening, there is often nothing open.

With 12 midnight during the week and 1pm on weekends for this new establishment, we will no longer have this problem!

On Saturday, May 15, 2010, I urge you to support this restaurant...as we in Del Ray do!

Thanks.

Patty
Dear Mayor and Council Members--

I understand that the Council will be voting this Saturday on a special use permit associated with a new restaurant for Del Ray. While I will be unable to attend the council meeting due to a conflicting engagement, my views on this issue are stated below.

First, I am Del Ray resident of 20+ years who has watched with pleasure the positive changes that have occurred on Mount Vernon Avenue. Three of my four children attend the local public schools. We live just a few blocks from the Avenue on W. Uhler Avenue, and we all regularly support the local businesses, and I certainly want them to remain in my community.

I am also looking forward to patronizing the new restaurant - certainly barbecue, fusion, and sushi are wonderful additions to the current tai, italian, ethiopian, Salvadoran, tex-mexican, and american fare already available on the avenue. However, any business that decides to come to
Mount Vernon Avenue must recognize that Del Ray is zoned as a Low Commercial Zone, and it is zoned this way for a reason. It is directly in the midst of a wonderful residential community. This is not Shirlington or Ballston with high rise apartments and condos. It is a small but chic neighborhood of primarily single family bungalows, town houses, and a few garden apartments, filled with residents like myself who love the quietness of their neighborhood, while enjoying the benefits of a small town Main Street. Small town Main Streets do not accommodate restaurants or any other business for that matter that essentially operate on a 24 hour cycle. Thus, as much as I want this new restaurant to come to Del Ray, I do not want it on our Main Street at the expense of losing the small town feel of our neighborhood.

I understand that the DCRA went against the Planning Staff's recommendation that the hours for this new restaurant be limited consistent with other restaurants on Mount Vernon. I am not a member of DCRA (although I support the Association itself), but I am a member of the Del Ray Community, and I disagree with the vote of the 55 or so individuals who would like to see this restaurant open until midnight Sunday through Thursday, and until 1a on Friday and Saturday. I understand that this would, in effect, result in the establishment really staying open until 1a Sunday through Thursday, and 2a on Friday and Saturday. Moreover, if these hours are granted to this new restaurant, this becomes the new precedent which all new and current restaurants will seek. I understand that current restaurants have been quite successful with earlier closing times, and so I question the need or desire to risk potentially changing the current culture of Del Ray based upon a single SUP. Lets look at this issue on a broader level; study the potential impact if all businesses had similar hours, look at the impact on the community, the impact on crime, the noise impact, the environmental impact, and any other impacts that should be considered.

So here is my bottom line: I strongly support the vote of the Planning Commission and the recommendation of their professional staff.
that the new restaurants in Del Ray have operating hours as follows:

Sunday through Thursday closing at 11pm (meaning last patron out at midnight)
Friday and Saturday closing at 12 am (meaning last patron out at 1am).

Finally, I have heard that some council members may have business relationships with the owners of the new restaurant. If this is true, it is fine, of course, from a business perspective, but I would expect that such council members would have to be recused from any vote on this SUP. There was the suggestion that this could create problems as to sufficient voting members. I hope that is not the case, but if it is, I hope that appropriate procedures are in place to deal with such a situation.

Thank you for your service to my community. I appreciate the hard work you do to make Alexandria, in my opinion, the best place to live.

Regards,

Ann Seidenberg
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
Stacy & Phillip Norris
3 W Uhler Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-684-5215
espnorris@verizon.net
City Councils Vote on Hog Thaid Restaurant
We thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns in considering your vote this Saturday for the Hog Thaid Restaurant's proposal to extend their hours–which is NOT consistent to the City's recommendation's staff report!

We have lived in Del Ray since 1986 and we are 2 blocks away from the proposed restaurant which we understand will have approximately 156 seats without any proposed designated parking. We would like for you to consider that every other restaurant in Del Ray does NOT have the hours that Mike Anderson and company (Hog Thaid) is proposing!. Should the city even consider extending the hours of this proposed operation this may well set a precedent for new and existing restaurants in Del Ray to apply for these extended late hours which concerns many Del Ray residential residents as you can only imagine!

Del Ray businesses especially restaurants have been successful even with the current economic conditions...
over the last several years WITHOUT having extended hours such as 1 or 2am.

With the Hog Thaid restaurants in place and their new delivery proposals
their commercial/residential operation will end up being a 22 hour
operation several days a week!

When we attended the Del Ray Citizens

Comments: Assoc meeting this past week, I found it extremely appalling that Mike
Anderson actually stood up and said “If I don’t get the late hours we
are asking for-- all bets are off!!!! He said that he would use the minor
approval process to enhance SUP and consider converting it into a Sports
Bar as an alternative even to include live music he gave up as part of his
negotiation process should he not be granted the later hours!!! ---

Unbelievable!

We consider that type of grand assertion
counterproductive to the good will expressed to the opening of a new
restaurant(s) that we gladly welcome to Del Ray --but certainly don’t like
his threats to our Del Ray residential and commercial community.

We

hope that the City Council very much considers our view as residents of
this vibrant community and does NOT vote to extend the hours that they are
recommending which are certainly INCONSISTENT with the staff reports’
recommendation.

Sincerely,
Stacy & Phillip Norris
& Pamela

Whitney
Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Lee

Last Name: Perna

Street Address: 223 E. Del Ray Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-683-5993

Email Address: leeperna@yahoo.com

Subject: Hog Thaid

I would like to reiterate some of my thoughts/comments from the recent Del Ray Citizens Association meeting. I feel that the recommended restrictions on hours and other aspects (such as outdoor seating) of Hog Thaid are inappropriately restrictive. The staff recommendations are for hours more restrictive than existing restaurants even after the owners have made numerous other concessions on noise, outdoor seating and traffic flow. Just tonight, I noticed I could hear the church music from half way down the street, but this establishment has agreed to restrict noise at the property line. I believe the standards should be equitable among all establishments new and old. I would also like to note that numerous residents, myself included, have spoken up in favor of late night dining options. Some of us don't get home from work until after most of the other establishments have closed. I also strongly endorse Del Ray as an environment where businesses and residences co-exist in close proximity, and I favor giving the businesses sufficient latitude to survive in these tough economic times. I suspect that economics will preclude this business
from maintaining such late hours, but I don't think the city should restrict their right to find out.
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Karin Fangman

206 East Alexandria Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-836-0203
mcfangs@yahoo.com

I encourage the Council to follow the City Planning and Zoning Committee recommendation when voting on the SUP noted above (Pork Barrel). This recommendation would permit the establishment to close at 11pm on "school/work days" (with outdoor seating ending at 10pm) and midnight on weekends. I appreciate that during hard economic times there is tremendous pressure on many, including this Council, to take measures that are business-friendly. I ask that you gather your courage to do the right thing - which in my view - and the view of many residents of Del Ray - is to maintain the integrity of this neighborhood. I am certain that if this SUP is approved as requested, Del Ray will never be the same. It is without question that the other restaurants will follow suit - and if this SUP is approved - what basis will anyone have to stop all restaurants from staying open until 2am?? This is not the neighborhood that we bought into.

I didn't want to live in Old Town or Georgetown, I wanted to live in a neighborhood that felt like a small town.
Comments: I feel strongly about
patronizing the businesses in Del Ray - it is important to me in a
community that is so interconnected.
But I can tell you right now that I
will not feel this way about Pork Barrel if they manage to muscle there way
into "getting everything they want". I am frankly surprised at
the uncompromising nature and suspect that it is born out of the belief
that the owner is well-connected with the City and can just get what he
wants. Please do not reinforce this - either in fact or appearance.

Please follow the Planning and Zoning Committee recommendations for
this SUP. Our community is counting on you. And we will all pay close
attention to how this vote shakes out.
Sincerely,

Karin Fangman
COA Contact Us: Pork Barrel Barbecue SUP

Maria Wasowski to: rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Please respond to Maria Wasowski

1 attachment

b023659d3604fdbdd97010a93808a6aa.doc


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Maria
Last Name: Wasowski
Street Address: 306 Hume Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-684-1490
Email Address: mariawasowski@comcast.net
Subject: Pork Barrel Barbecue SUP
Comments: Please see my letter attached.
Attachment: b023659d3604fdbdd97010a93808a6aa.doc
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Cynthia

2303 Commonwealth Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-966-0403
cclemmer@comcast.net

Hog Thaid, Etc

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please support the overwhelming vote by the Del Ray Citizens Association to allow the hours requested by Hog Thaid Restaurant, etc. Though city staff proposed a different set of hours, those were not accepted by the majority.

It is time to move forward. This new business entity has bent over backwards to "accommodate" Del Ray and the City of Alexandria. The hoops that the city and Del Ray have put these folks through has been extraneous. We are not a sleepy bedroom community and we need to start remembering that. We are a destination and we need and want to grow, appropriately. Please respect and support the Vote that was held on May 10.
COA Contact Us: Extended Business Hours for Del Ray Restaurant
william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Denise Gray to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka
05/12/2010 10:34 AM
Please respond to Denise Gray


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Denise
Last Name: Gray
Street Address: E Linden Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone:
Email Address: dgrayhealthyliving@gmail.com
Subject: Extended Business Hours for Del Ray Restaurant
Please know that I think it is setting the wrong precedent to allow the new
restaurant opening shortly on Mt. Vernon Avenue to operate with extended
business hours that are different from other restaurants and businesses in
Del Ray. The restaurant is not just near - it is surrounded by - mere
steps away from residents. School nights and children sleeping - early
Comments: risers for DC commutes. I can't imagine why it is so important to
accommodate patrons into the early morning hours. I am sure the
restaurant(s) will be wonderfully successful and profitable without having
to stay open longer than all the other restaurants. Please do the right
thing for your Del Ray citizens.
COA Contact Us: BBQ in Del Ray, Mike Anderson, in SUPPORT


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Julie
Last Name: Forsht
Street Address: 217 East Windsor Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7037395871
Email Address: juliecardamone@comcast.net
Subject: BBQ in Del Ray, Mike Anderson, in SUPPORT
I am writing to express my support for Mr. Anderson's BBQ on the ave.

Our families opinion is that Mr. Anderson will be a great addition
to the neighborhood.
We welcome him to the ave.

Comments: It is our hope his SUP can be approved as is, and we can move forward to enjoying him as our new neighbor!

Sincerely,

Julie Forsht
I have written to you previously regarding my opposition to late night business hours in Del Ray, so it is not necessary to repeat them. I have done additional reading on both sides of this matter, and continue to feel late night hours are not suited to Del Ray.

If City Council approves late night hours in Del Ray, I believe such an approval should include mandatory, periodic review meetings (quarterly or semi-annually) for city officials, business owners, neighbors and residents to resolve issues specifically arising from light night business operations.

Thank you for considering this.

Also, thank you for the recent street cleaning on Rosecrest Avenue, which cleaned up a lot of tree and leaf debris.
Mary Jensen

2 West Howell Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-518-5408
jensen-mary@bah.com

New restaurant in Del Ray

Regarding the Special Use Permit for the new B-B-Q restaurant in Del Ray, I request that the Council support City staff recommendations regarding operating hours. We do not need restaurants open until midnight or one a.m. in this neighborhood. This is too close to residential areas and inconsistent with any other restaurant in the area. Thank you.
Dear Mayor Euille and the Alexandria City Council,

I would like to voice my personal support for the Pork Barrel BBQ Hog Thaid restaurant that is proposing to open its doors on Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. Our city and Del Ray in particular has a strong need for new restaurants and I believe that the combination BBQ/Asian/Fusion restaurant will make a terrific addition to the neighborhood and add to the quality of life we enjoy in Del Ray.

While looking forward to the addition of this new restaurant to the avenue, I have become concerned about a small group of neighbors that has mounted a campaign to oppose the establishment of the restaurant. After observing the discussion boards and neighborhood conversations there appears to be a significant amount of misinformation and sensationalism surrounding the proposed restaurant.
have studied the available information and developed an informed opinion that results in a strong recommendation for this restaurant. The following is a list of the top 10 reasons why you the City Council should vote to approve HogThaid’s request for opening up its doors in Del Ray.

1. The HogThaid ownership team has a long track record of providing neighborhood restaurants such as Mango Mike’s, Ramparts and Big Fish providing services to Alexandria neighborhoods. This team knows how to provide eating establishments that cater to the needs of the community.

2. HogThaid wants to be part of the local community and has done a terrific job in patiently hearing out neighbors concerns modifying their business plans to better fit into the neighborhood. Over the past several years I have seen the ownership team function as an involved and conscious neighbor supporting the local community on many occasions.

3. Alexandria needs to expand its tax base and a popular neighborhood establishment like HogThaid will draw people into the neighborhood to spend their money at this restaurant and other establishments within our community.

4. HogThaid supports the local community. At their Mango Mike location, the Hog Thaid ownership team has supported many local charities and fund raisers for local kids sports teams and youth in general. Clearly we can count on them to give to the local community. As a trusted neighbor they can be counted on to contribute to all kinds of community based activities such as the numerous annual events, local schools and related activities, local sports teams, artistic activities, etc.

5. HogThaid will provide jobs to young and working adults within the local community. At a time when the country is struggling to make its way out of a lifetime recession, we have an opportunity to establish Del Ray as a premier family and casual dining...
neighborhood and offer young adults opportunities for full and part-time employment.

6. Del Ray needs higher quality and diverse offering of foods in our neighborhood. We have a smattering of small restaurants and we need more diversity and offerings for our citizens and to attract customers from outside the neighborhood to our local community.

7. Americans love BBQ and Del Ray as an All American neighborhood must have BBQ in the heart of the avenue. My family LOVEs the savoring smell of BBQ and are looking forward to the mouthwatering aroma of BBQ on the avenue.

8. Adding HogThaid to the neighborhood put pressure on the low end business that are detracting from building the local economy. For example, check cashing centers and pawn Shops (businesses that exploit the local population) need to be encouraged to go elsewhere.

9. HogThaid will help establish Del Ray and Mount Vernon Avenue as a more mainstream destination moving beyond morning and afternoon muffins and teas to full scale dining. Their product offering and the new building venue allows Del Ray the opportunity to establish businesses serving the need of the community rather than just families of small children of which I am a member.

10. If you don't approve HogThaid or limit its success by applying numerous restrictions the neighborhood will suffer, and a signal will be sent to the business community to look else where for opening their doors. In addition, more vagrants will show up in the city after hearing that Alexandria does not accept new business and restaurants and once again they will be panhandling on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patrick McNabb
(703) 629-3330
Dear Mayor and Council Members--

Thank you all for your service to our city—we are fortunate to have such a diverse and talented group of public servants in Alexandria.

I made a statement regarding concerns about potential late hours for the new restaurants planned for Del Ray (under Mike Anderson's leadership)—unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the council meeting this Saturday to share the same concerns in person. In lieu of that, I am sending my thoughts in this e-mail.

BOTTOM LINE: I strongly support the vote of the Planning Commission (and the recommendation of their professional staff) that the three new restaurants in Del Ray not have operating hours beyond 11pm on Sunday through Thursday (meaning last patron out at midnight) and 12 am on Friday and Saturday (meaning last patron out at 1 am).
RATIONALE:

--My family
and I are thrilled to have Mr. Anderson coming to Del Ray. We have lived
in Del Ray since 1998 (with two children in Alexandria public schools)
and--as is the case with most residents who have lived in this neighborhood
since that time (or earlier), we are very aware of the importance of smart
business investment in creating the neighborhood that Del Ray has become.
Everything we have heard about Mr. Anderson indicates that he is continuing
the Del Ray tradition of smart and responsible business investment, and we
could not be happier about his addition to our neighborhood.
--As active
supporters of Del Ray businesses, we also are aware and appreciative of the
need for small businesses to be able to survive economically. Those
businesses that choose to locate in Del Ray do so (in our opinion) with
good reason: this is a neighborhood that can and does support local
businesses, and it is not hard to understand why Mr. Anderson finds Del Ray
an attractive location for his new restaurants.
--Our concern is that,
with operating hours extended beyond those voted on by the Planning
Commission and recommended by their professional staff (11pm weeknights,
midnight on weekends), these new restaurants will set a precedent that
could detract from the neighborhood character so carefully created and
maintained over the last two decades. There are two aspects of precedence
that concern us:
(1) The hours Mr. Anderson has requested would be
unprecedented relative to other businesses in the neighborhood (with no
apparent compelling reason to create new precedent).
(2) These new hours
would create a new precedent--it is difficult to believe that other
restaurants in the neighborhood would not immediately make the same request
(and it is reasonable to expect that future businesses will push for even
later hours).

--Given this new precedent, our concern is that Del Ray will become something of a bar destination. To be clear, we have nothing against bars--Del Ray is not, however, an ideal "bar neighborhood." There are a number of options for late night bars in and around Alexandria, to the extent that one easily can find such a location without having to go to a residential neighborhood. As one of the speakers at the Planning Commission meeting noted, we do not want Del Ray to become an Adams Morgan.

--Several people have made the point that it would be nice to have a late night dining option in Del Ray. I certainly have no problem with that, but I question whether or not late night dining is the business opportunity prompting a desire for late hours. It seems reasonable to assume that the motivation for those later hours is the revenue available from drink sales. Again, I have no problem with bars or drink sales--I am concerned, though, that later hours (primarily for alcohol sales) will have a negative effect on the character and quality of life of Del Ray. There is a balance between maintaining the character of Del Ray and ensuring viable business opportunities for restaurants/bars. The abundance of healthy, vibrant businesses in Del Ray (each of which lives with existent operating hours) suggests that we have that balance.

--A reasonable compromise (if, in fact, late night dining truly is the reason for later hours) would seem to entail staying open later for food service, but stopping alcohol sales at the closing times agreed to by the Planning Commission and their professional staff.

--There does not seem to be a compelling reason for the Council to go against the recommendation of the Planning Committee, its professional staff, and years of precedent on evening hours. I understand that a divided Del Ray Citizens Association voted in favor of slightly later hours than those approved by the Planning Commission and the professional staff. Although I
am supportive of the Citizens Association, I am not a member (and they do not represent my views). Please uphold the recommendation of your Planning Commission and city staff.

COUNCIL VOTING PROCESS QUESTION:

—I understand that some of you might have business relationships with Mr. Anderson (and, if that is the case, I have absolutely no problem with that—especially if you have helped bring these new restaurants to Del Ray). I have a question about voting process, though. I am guessing anyone with such a business relationship would have to recuse him or herself from the vote. If that is the case, will there be sufficient voting members able to make a determination on this issue?

Thank you.
Dr. Bob Knapp

To: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Subject: Del Ray Restaurant hours

I've eaten at Mike Anderson's since 1989. They are now going to open in Del Ray and I understand that there are a few people with nothing better to do but to annoy Mike and his business. I have eaten in Del Ray often and they really need more restaurants down there! As far as that one woman causing a tempest in a tea pot...well if I were her husband I surely would need a place open late in Del Ray just to get away from her.

Yours in

Health,

Dr. Robert Knapp
COA Contact Us: Later hours for Del Ray Restaurants

Janet Macidull to: rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Please respond to Janet Macidull

05/07/2010 09:45 AM

Later hours for Del Ray Restaurants

As a 5 day a week patron of businesses in Del Ray, I think it's a great idea for restaurants and food businesses to be able to stay open later. Although I can appreciate that some may worry about potential "late hour behavior" and noise, the Del Ray Citizens Association can be counted on to monitor and ensure operations are neighborhood-friendly. The potential business owners have deep and positive roots in Alexandria -- let's give them a chance to show what a positive presence they can be!
Support Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray

I am writing to you in support of the Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray.

I appreciate all the owners have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including compromising on hours of operation. I would love if we finally get a late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that the city support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends. These hours were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee, and the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted unanimously in support of these hours of operation.

We must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community. If Del Ray and Alexandria create an anti-business climate, all the progress that has been made on Mt Vernon Avenue will start...
to unwind.

I appreciate your time and hope that you
will follow through on my and many other peoples wishes.

Best

regards,

Sissel Bakken
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Richard Jereski

2302 burke avenue
alexandria
va
22301
202-253-6398
rjereski@gmail.com

support for del rey businesss

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to you in support of local businesses
and restaurants in the Del Rey community - especially Pork Barrel BBQ,

Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray.

I appreciate all the
owners have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including
compromising on the BBQ cooker
and hours of operation.

I want and
support having late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that the city
support the compromise hours of
operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am
weekends. These hours were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association

Land Use Committee, and the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board

voted unanimously in support of these hours of operation.
We must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community.

If Del Ray and Alexandria create an anti-business climate, all the progress that has been made on Mt Vernon Avenue will start to unwind. In addition, it will increase the tax responsibilities of individual home owners instead of spreading the tax base across more businesses.

I hope that you will support increased business into the area as it will help the city raise much needed funds to pay for services.

Richard Jereski
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Richard Griffin

I encourage City Council and the Planning Commission to support the SUP 2010-0011 for Pork Barrel BBQ and the other restaurants. The business owners are local members of our community, are responsible citizens, have been responsive to and supportive of the neighbors in Del Ray who have expressed concerns about hours, air quality, traffic, etc. Mike Anderson and his team have bent over backwards to listen to and accommodate the neighbors who live near the proposed restaurants. It is my understanding that most of the neighbors who initially expressed concerns are now in support of the restaurants.

Apparently there is a new group of protesters who are spreading misinformation about the restaurant. I urge the council members to support the majority of Alexandria citizens who are level-headed and responsible and understand the
Comments:

such projects bring to Del Ray and Alexandria. I have lived in Alexandria since moving to the area in 1983. We experienced what Mt Vernon Ave was like back then. Seeing how much progress has been made since then in the Del Ray area, it is really painful to hear these anti-business sentiments being expressed by a small number of citizens of Alexandria, who seem to have no idea what the consequences of their actions could be.

I look forward to the day these restaurants open - they will add much needed variety to the dining choices in Del Ray, will enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood, will add to the economic vitality of the city, and will enhance the safety of Mt Vernon Ave. I encourage you to approve the SUP including its hours of operation.

Respectfully Yours,
Richard

Griffin
I strongly support Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray. I appreciate all the owners have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including compromising on the BBQ cooker and hours of operation. I support having late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that they support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends, especially since they were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee and that the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted in support of these hours of operation. We must support new local businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community.
To the Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I would like to extend my support for the Del Ray BBQ Company’s (DRBBQ) special use permit application currently before the council. The City should be encouraged by the recognition of Del Ray’s need for another restaurant operating at later hours managed by and for responsible professionals committed to their community. I believe that the entrepreneurs of DRBBQ have presented a business plan that will result in a significant new source of top line tax revenue for the City and Del Ray community while providing three new dining options that will help diversify our local cuisine. During the last decade Del Ray has demonstrated the ability to welcome a variety of new businesses to a permanent home. The successful businesses in Del Ray have held in common an entrepreneurial spirit complimented by tremendous work ethic and loyal customers. I have no doubt that the stakeholders of DRBBQ are entrepreneurial, hard-working and will garner a loyal following.
I have been a citizen of Del Ray for eight years since I moved here from DC after graduating college. I hope this gives me some insight into the newest members of our community, meaning the 20 something's to 30 something's who have decided to start their families in our community. Our newest neighbors have moved here because they agree with our belief in neighborhood. That belief is buttressed by the growth in Del Ray's entrepreneurial activity during the last decade. The younger citizens who moved here would not have done so without belief in Del Ray's commitment to a progressive attitude towards small business.

DRBBQ will provide three new dining alternatives for all of Del Ray to enjoy. The fast casual concept they have designed will provide quality foods at a good value mixed with friendly service. For those of us looking for another place in Del Ray to socialize and dine, the sushi lounge will be another reason to keep our business and money in the City of Alexandria and Del Ray community.

The younger demographic who has made Del Ray their home would like another venue to compliment those places that already serve casual food and adult beverages. I look forward to all of these options.

Sincerely,

Woody

Brown
MBA Candidate Class of 2011
Mason School of Business
The College

of William and Mary
New restaurants on Mt. Vernon Ave

Please accept the recommendations of the DelRay residents like myself who live within a few blocks of the new restaurants being built by Mango Mikes.

The hours of the new restaurants should be limited to 11 pm Sunday-Thursday, and 12 am on Friday/Saturday, and they should have also been required to install state-of-the-art ventilation for the BBQ restaurant before being permitted.

Thank you for your time and service to the community,
Michael Spatz
19 W. Wyatt Ave
(703) 299-8525
Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council -

We are writing to express our support for the restaurants that are currently looking to open at the Mt. Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue corner.

Having moved here 3 years ago - we were enticed by the idea that "the Avenue" was going to continue to be developed with shops and dining. We looked at homes closer to the Avenue and settled being a couple blocks west - every home we looked at marketed itself as being "steps away from the shops and restaurants of The Avenue". Up to this point we have been disappointed in the lack of growth along the Avenue and the number of shops that have succumbed to the economic climate.

My wife and I have attended neighborhood discussions on these restaurants and have listened impartially. To us it sounds like three local business folks are excited
about opening three additional dining options at a corner that housed a gas station when we moved here. It does sound like they have gone above and beyond what both the city and state require in regards to their smoker and it's emissions.

We want Del Ray to continue to develop as a neighborhood that has something to offer for everyone - we need businesses to want to be here in Del Ray and not make it hard for them to bring good business to our neighborhood.

Please consider what is best for the whole community of Del Ray.

Best regards-
Scott & Joey Farmery
Dear Ms. Livingston:

Thank you for your email, which will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for their consideration. The public hearings on the proposed barbecue restaurant are scheduled for May 4 (Planning Commission) and May 15 (City Council) and you are encouraged to attend and speak or to submit your comments in writing.

For your information, the applicant, Mr. Anderson, has amended his request for operating hours, asking to be able to stay open until midnight during the week and until 1am on Friday and Saturday nights.

If you have any additional question, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara Ross  
Deputy Director  
Planning and Zoning  
(703)746-3802
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Heidi Dickens

1416 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-850-3772
heidi.dickens@gmail.com

Hog Thaid SUP

Hail to Thee Most Honored Leaders of the Alexandria Community:

I live in Del Ray and I have reviewed the SUP application by Hog Thaid, LLC.

The proposed restaurant will be located at 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue, in the neighborhood of Del Ray, with Commercial Low Zoning and subject to a very specific Mount Vernon Overlay. The restaurant will be located on the same block as several residential homes and located one block from the Mount Vernon Elementary School.

In SUP #2010-0011, the Applicant asks: (i) to operate one 6,000 square foot restaurant Sunday through Friday from 11:30am to 2:00am and on Saturday from 7:30am to 2:00am, (ii) to vent up to 2 and ½ stories, (iii) to produce up to 400 bags of trash per day, (iv) to have off street loading beginning at 4:00am daily and continuing until 5:00pm with trucks parked off Mount Vernon Avenue only, (v) to have outdoor dining, and...
(vi) to offer carry out service.

Comments:
I support the SUP with the following changes to ensure the restaurants are in keeping with the commercial low zoning, Mount Vernon overlay, and family-friendly character of Del Ray: (i) a change in hours so that the restaurant closes by or before 11:00pm nightly (with any outdoor dining to end every night by 10:00pm), (ii) a change in the cooker operation to minimize the exposure to residents of smoke and cooking odors, including the installation of a required ventilation system to clean the air, (iii) off street loading hours (to be off Mount Vernon Avenue only) with precautions put into place to ensure residents/children are not disturbed before 6:00am, (iv) outdoor dining tables limited and hours of operation ceasing by 10:00pm daily, (v) no outdoor music, no live music, and decibel and property boundary limitations placed on noise emanating from property.
I respectfully ask that the SUP only be supported with these changes.

Sincerely,
Heidi Dickens
Hog Thaid - SUP 2010-0011

I have lived in Del Ray for over nine years and am a big supporter of Del Ray businesses. I am a member of the Del Ray Citizens Association. I am a real estate attorney.

I have reviewed SUP request 2010-0011 for Applicant Hog Thaid, LLC. I am looking forward to the addition of BBQ, sushi, and Asian Fusion to our neighborhood restaurant options. I dine out a considerable number of evenings. I believe these businesses will further enhance a well established and beloved neighborhood. I am concerned, though, about the following requests and ask that the SUP be approved, with the noted modifications:

Request: Hours until 2:00 am every night, including outdoor dining.

Proposed Response: I believe reasonable hours would be closing at 11:00 every night or possibly remaining open until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, with outdoor dining to end at 10:00 on weekdays and 11:00 on weekends.
Applicant's request far exceeds the hours of operation for any and all similar types of establishments in the area. The real estate directly west of Applicant is residential and other residential real estate is proximate. An elementary school is nearby. I believe that having hours that extend to 2:00am 7 days a week will unreasonably disturb the sleep of residential neighbors during the work-week and during school nights.

I am interested in the Alexandria police department's input regarding the safety issues and increased risk to persons and property that a dining establishment in this neighborhood with these late hours is expected to create. I believe there is a reasonable expectation for crime to increase with these requested hours. According to a study by USA Today, 26% of all crime happens between 12am and 6am. Not only would extended hours likely impact the physical security and property integrity of nearby neighbors, it would increase Police Department costs because of the additional security required during early morning hours and City clean up costs due to litter.

I also question who will be frequenting a restaurant that is open until 2:00am. Although it would be wonderful if these patrons were law enforcement personnel or shift workers, they are more likely to be individuals who have been drinking and are looking for a location in which to become sober. Too, the opening of Monroe Avenue may invite a transient crowd off Route 1 who is not aware of the residential component of the neighborhood. I am concerned these early morning patrons will threaten the safety of persons and motorists in the area and personal property (side swiping cars) of residents. Again, the Alexandria police department's input would be valuable on this issue.

I want to reiterate that I am an enthusiastic supporter of businesses in Del Ray and will patronize these restaurants. I respect the owners' business expertise and their need to have a business plan that will ensure their
financial success. However, Hog Thaid, LLC is choosing to do business in an established neighborhood with Commercial Low Zoning. Therefore, I ask that they not be permitted to adversely impact the character of this neighborhood we all love.

Sincerely,

Paula DeMuth
To the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members,

I am writing you today to express concern about restaurant hours in Del Ray on Mount Vernon Avenue, particularly late hours in conjunction with alcohol sales. The catalyst for this email is SUP 2010-0011, referring to a new BBQ restaurant at the corner of Oxford and Mount Vernon.

As a father, I worry about the results from the mix of late hours and spirits. My wife and I settled in Del Ray precisely because it was a family place and not a bar district. True, it had (and has) a few establishments that serve alcohol, but the number was reasonable, the noise contained, and the hours more Alexandria than Adams Morgan. My wife, daughter, and I are patrons of these places.

There’s nothing we like better than walking down the street to grab a bite.
I want to encourage businesses to continue to come and settle in Del Ray while respecting the Mayberry brand of the neighborhood, so I would like to amend the SUP with the following considerations. I have heard through unverified neighborhood gossip and the usual grapevine that Mike (the applicant) is open to some of these, but of course, he can speak for himself. I would like to see him codify them in a written amendment to the SUP, however. I do trust new business owners, but would like to verify against written SUPs.

First, that the hours notch back from 2 AM to 11 PM on weekdays and 12 PM on weekend nights. I would like to see the restaurant close in keeping with other restaurants on Mount Vernon Ave.

Mike has completed the SUP to be open until 2 AM seven nights a week in a commercially low zoned area subject to the Mount Vernon Overlay. Restaurants in this area are not open past 11 pm during the week and 12am on weekends. This is the neighborhood I moved into and would like to keep.

Second, that the hours of outdoor seating be clearly prescribed in the SUP. As I read it now, there are no prescribed hours in the SUP for outdoor seating. I would like to see the outdoor seating end (no one left outside) at 10 PM.

Third, that the SUP be amended to address the special cooking odors that come from a BBQ restaurant. The SUP says only that there will be typical restaurant cooking odors. But BBQ smoking is not a typical restaurant odor and the smoke is also not typical. I'm not sure Mike has thought through that phrase and I would like him to do so.

Fourth, that noise levels be properly defined. Again, this is a matter of phrasing, and perhaps some carelessness at completing the SUP. I don't think you can define an establishment that is open until 2 AM serving alcohol until then as a "Family Restaurant" and therefore don't think that you can define the noise levels coming from that establishment as "Typical family style restaurant levels" (Mike's words). Either he moves his
hours back to be more in keeping with family hours or he should change his phrasing in answer to question 7A to be, "Typical bar levels."

Fifth, that some amendment be made to the SUP to address entertainment. I would like to see, in writing, a statement that he have no audible noise from property line.

Sixth, I would like to see the SUP amended to describe the type of alcohol that can be served. I would support beer and wine but not hard spirits.

Seventh, that deliveries be more clearly defined in the SUP. I worry about the precedent of unsupervised deliveries at 4 AM 30 yards from where children sleep and where parents must get up to get them off to school and grab the 10B to work. I would like to see deliveries during normal business hours or in the morning before the restaurant opens up, when families are already about their business.

Please allow me to close as I opened. I support new businesses on Mount Vernon not just with letters to the Mayor and Council, but also with my wallet. I see no reason why the neighborhood and Mike should be in opposition over a few hours and a more clearly defined SUP. Instead, I’m grasping for, in writing, some honestly stated and well considered boundaries to keep the spirit of the neighborhood I love so much.

Thank you for both your service and consideration.
To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Del Ray at 1408 Mt. Vernon Avenue and a member of the Del Ray Citizens Association. I have read the Application for Special Use Permit submitted by Hog Thaid, LLC seeking several exceptions to/expansions of the Commercial Light Zoning restrictions associated with their tenancy at the new office building at 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave. I fully support the restaurant uses outlined in the application; however, I do not support several of the operations-related exceptions which the applicant requests, as they clearly conflict with the stated intent of the Commercial Low Zoning category which defines this area of Del Ray, and they are without precedent in even the most densely developed parts of all of Alexandria City.

I strongly urge Council to apply additional conditions limiting or modifying several of the applicant’s SUP requests:

1.) Proposed hours of operation of restaurant:
The applicant requests to operate the restaurants Sun-F 11:30 am to 2 am, and on Saturday from 7 am to 2 am Sunday morning. It is unclear what hours of operation would apply to the "city-suggested" outdoor dining area, but it is assumed that it would be open for the same spans of time. The applicant qualifies the type of activity & noise levels as "typical family style restaurant levels," however, the proposed late hours of operation indicate that noise & activity levels could exceed that of a family-oriented establishment and would definitely adversely impact the residential neighbors who live in such close proximity to the property. Furthermore, there is no question that the proposed hours of operation introduce a use and activity level far more intense than any currently on the Avenue and in fact more intense than even the Central Business District & restaurant/bar district in Old Town, most of whose restaurants & bars are open until 2 am on Fridays & Saturdays only.

Three different restaurants, all open until 2 am every day of the week, within one property of residences, most certainly flies in the face of the Commercial Low Zoning category which so appropriately defines this area:

"Proximity to residences requires that commercial operations be conducted at a scale and intensity commensurate with nearby residential development, be developed and designed so as to be in character with such development and be of such characteristics as not to be detrimental or a nuisance to nearby residential properties."

As a resident close to restaurants with outdoor seating, I strongly urge the Council to limit the hours of operation of these 3 establishments to an 11 pm closing on weekdays and 1 am closing on Fridays & Saturdays, with further reduced hours associated with any proposed outdoor seating area.

2.) Proposed outdoor seating: The application is unclear as to how the proposed outdoor seating area(s) would be designed, managed, and utilized. The Zoning Ordinance seems to require some sort of additional permit or at the very least a detailed description in the SUP application on how this area would operate.

Comments:
"4-107 Use limitations. (A) All operations shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building except that a temporary use permit for occasional outdoor sales or seasonal sales or display in conjunction with and on the same lot as an existing permitted use may be granted by the director, which permit shall indicate the location, size, duration and purpose of the accessory outdoor use and, if the use is seasonal, whether the permit shall continue on an annual basis."

As a resident close to restaurants with outdoor seating, I strongly urge Council to request additional information in the application regarding the proposed outdoor seating area: hours of operation, means of noise & litter control (where & how many street-front trash receptacles? Frequency of "monitoring"? Location, number, & means of monitoring CCTV security cameras?) I also urge Council to consider requiring a yearly permit be pursued, based on the seasonal nature of the outdoor seating area, so that the business has the opportunity to address residents' concerns on a regular and ongoing basis.

3.) Proposed loading schedule:

The application indicates that loading/unloading shall occur unsupervised as early as 4 am on most days of the week. Between a 2 am close and a 4 am delivery schedule, it is clear that activity could be occurring at this property on close to a 24/7 basis. This no doubt will adversely impact the surrounding residences, creating constant disturbances related to noise, trash, litter, parking, etc. with little recourse for any affected residents. I strongly urge Council to require that the applicant limit loading times to weekdays between 6 am & 6 pm, including all deliveries and trash pick-up.
Rainey Astin

To: Alicia Hughes, council, Delpepper, Paul C. Medberg, Rose Boyd, Jackie Henderson, Elaine Scott, Rob Krupicka

Re: Hog Thaid LLC - SUP application # 2010-0011

First, I apologize for any duplication of emails; you may have a prior email from me on this subject which is incomplete. Please disregard any prior emails on this subject. Set forth below are my comments:

My neighbors and I are very concerned about the Hog Thaid SUP application. The applicant has asked to be open until 2am seven nights a week in a commercially low zoned area subject to the Mount Vernon Overlay. Restaurants in this area are not open past 11pm during the week and 12am on weekends. The applicant is asking for a precedent setting change which, if granted, be requested and followed by every other restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue. We believe this would change the nature of Del Ray and convert what has become a wonderful example of mixed use living into (eventually) a strip of late night bars (unfortunately, once restaurants have late hours, they sell more alcohol, and landlords see their success and raise rents; eventually, the only tenants who can afford these rents are bars; small businesses and retail stores are forced out).
We very much
do not want to lose the family friendly mixed use neighborhood we, and the
City, have created. Up till now, we have relied on the commercial low
zoning and Mount Vernon overlay to protect us.
Unfortunately, with the
downturn in the economy, we sense that Planning and Zoning and the City may
be willing to make a short sighted accommodation to a known and well-liked
restaurant operator, Mike Anderson. We are concerned that this
accommodation will have terrible long term consequences as the SUP can be
transferred via an administrative application to another operator, and the
accommodations given a well known and liked operator may eventually fall
into the hands of someone much less experienced. The combination of
alcohol and late night hours is not a good one. We are also concerned,
again, about a precedent setting deviation from the zoning
requirements.
Comments:

While we too are impressed by Mike Anderson, we cannot
rely on him to ensure that Mount Vernon Avenue does not eventually become
a late night bar strip. We must rely on the commercial low zoning and the
Planning and Zoning Board, the Mayor, and the City Council to follow the
law on this point and to safeguard Alexandria's citizens.
My neighbors
and I have reviewed the SUP application in depth, and set forth below are
our requests for a reasonable compromise which I have raised with the Del
Ray Land Use Committee and Barbara Ross at Planning and Zoning:

(i)
change in hours so that the restaurant closes
by or before 11:00pm nightly (or at a minimum closing at 11:00pm Sunday
through Thursday with any outdoor dining to end every night by 10:00pm),

(ii) change in the cooker
operation/ventilation to minimize the exposure to residents of smoke and
cooking odors/pollutants),

(iii) restrictions

on live entertainment and noise levels (no audible noise from property line);

(iv) outdoor dining tables limited and

hours of operation ceasing by 10:00pm daily.

We ask that you take the

above into consideration when reviewing the SUP application and most

importantly limit the hours of operation during the work/school week to an

11pm closing (10pm closing on the patio).

Respectfully

Submitted,

Rainey Astin
Please support later hours for new restaurants in Del Ray
I am writing to express my support of having late night dining options in Del Ray. As a citizen and business owner, I find it very difficult to dine locally after closing my retail shop, as there are almost no late night dining options, outside of fast food. I ask that you support the proposed compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am on weekends.

Thank you
Staff's explanations, answers, views and recommended requirements are all contained in its published staff report. That document speaks for itself as to many of the questions you raised, and staff is reluctant to have others recast its words. The report with all of the letters and other materials submitted to staff and to the Planning Commission is in the process of being formally submitted to City Council for its consideration. We encourage you to participate in the Council hearing on May 15.

Barbara Ross
Deputy Director
Planning and Zoning
703/746-3802

Just wondering if I may have the answers to my questions that were forwarded to you last week?

Thank you.

Annie I Meighan

Begin forwarded message:

From: annie <tetaannie@mac.com>
Date: May 6, 2010 1:13:34 PM EDT
To: Annie Meighan <tetaannie@mac.com>
Subject: Pertaining to council hearing

Cancers from Environment 'Grossly Underestimated'

Daily Exposures Cause Far More Cancers Than Once Thought, a Presidential Panel Says
By EMILY WALKER
MedPage Today Staff Writer

May 6, 2010—

Environmental carcinogens are responsible for a far greater number of cancers
than previously believed -- a fact that suggests eradicating these environmental threats should be a priority for President Obama -- according to the report of a presidential advisory panel.

"The Panel was particularly concerned to find that the true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated," wrote the authors of the report, "Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now."

"The panel urges you most strongly to use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our Nation's productivity, and devastate American lives," the report's authors wrote in a letter to President Obama.

The President's Cancer Panel was established by the National Cancer Act of 1971, when then President Richard Nixon declared war on cancer. The panel is required to submit an annual report to the president describing the status of the "war" and identifying both progress and barriers to continued advances.

The singling out of environmental causes for cancer in this year's report is considered a major -- and some said welcome -- departure from previous reports, according to a number cancer specialists contacted by ABC News and MedPage Today.

"For the past 30 years ... there has been systematic effort to minimize the importance of environmental factors in carcinogenesis," said Dr. Philip Landrigan, director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

"There has been disproportionate emphasis on lifestyle factors and insufficient attention paid to discovering and controlling environmental exposures," he said. "This report marks a sea change."

Dr. Jennifer Lowry, a medical toxicologist at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo., said the report finally lends a "voice that could be heard that the environment does play an important role in the health of all people of every age."

The report is actually a synthesis of testimony from more than two dozen experts in cancer, chemicals and environmental toxins.

Based on that testimony and research compiled over the last two years, report authors Dr. LaSalle Leffall, Jr., of Howard University and Vivian Smith, professor emerita at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, concluded that the government has failed to prevent unnecessary exposures to carcinogens. The
challenge for the Obama administration, they wrote, is to intensify research efforts into environmental toxins.

"With the growing body of evidence linking environmental exposures to cancer, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the unacceptable burden of cancer resulting from environmental and occupational exposures that could have been prevented through appropriate national action," Leffal and Smith wrote in the letter to the president.

Among the potential exposures cited in the report were pesticides, fertilizers, pharmaceutical byproducts in the water supply, household chemicals and tanning beds. Emissions from cars, trucks and planes add to the toxic mix, the authors wrote.

But the authors said there was no evidence connecting the use of cell phones to increased cancer risk.

While Americans are exposed to thousands of chemicals each year, only several hundred of those chemicals have been safety tested, Leffal and Smith said.

The study of environmental factors and their effect on cancer has been giving short shrift compared to studying lifestyle factors and genetic and molecular causes of cancer, the authors claimed.

But paging through the lengthy report, it was difficult to find solid science to back that strong statement.

"At this time, we do not know how much environmental exposures influence cancer risk and related immune and endocrine dysfunction," Leffal and Smith wrote.

In an interview, Leffal said he hoped the report, if nothing else, would raise awareness that chemicals and other environmental toxins may be causing cancer and that more studies are needed.

"We think based on what we know, when you look at all the data, it just appears to us that there are areas where it's been greatly under-reported," Lefall said. "We don't know 100 percent, but that's why we believe we need to do more research."

The National Toxicology Program, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, does list some chemicals such as benzene and formaldehyde and some substances including tobacco as carcinogenic, but environmental factors, such as air pollutants and naturally-occurring chemicals, are less well-understood.

Public awareness about some compounds, such as bisphenol A (BPA), has
increased in the past year as a handful of studies and report linked the ubiquitous chemical -- widely used in plastics such as baby bottles and other drink containers -- to metabolic disorders, heart disease and male sexual dysfunction.

Also, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently announced it would review safety data on another common chemical, triclosan, which is used in antibacterial soaps and washes, toothpastes and cosmetics, after lab tests on animals were concerning.

In the report, Leffal and Smith recommended that physicians routinely ask about their current workplace and living environment as a routine part of collecting patient history.

They also recommended:

- Conducting a thorough assessment of workplace exposures and cancer risks;
- Creating a more coordinated and transparent system for enforcing environmental health standards;
- Increasing funding for federal research into occupational and environmental epidemiologic cancer research;
- The Environmental Protection Agency should lower its current maximum standard for radon exposure, and the public should be better informed about the risks of radon;
- Providing better care to military personal who were exposed to nuclear fallout.

Radiation exposure has long been recognized as a cancer risk, but this latest report from the President's Cancer Panel claims that patients and healthcare professionals are not completely aware of radiation exposure from imaging techniques such as computed tomography (CT) scans -- a radiation exposure that might be increasing with the use of whole body scans and virtual colonoscopy.

And while the report issued a call for increased emphasis on dialing down the radiation exposure with CT, the government may actually be out in front on this issue; the FDA recently proposed new safety requirements for manufacturers of CT scanners and fluoroscopic devices. Those new requirements are designed to reduce unnecessary radiation from medical imaging.

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I support later hours for DelRay

My wife and I live across the street from the site where Pork Barrel BBQ will soon open. We both support Pork Barrel BBQ and other restaurants to stay open later.

Thanks!
As a resident of Del Ray since 1991, I have seen quite a bit of change in the neighborhood. I am always pleased to see people willing to invest their time, money, and effort in developing new businesses, and am in support of the Pork Barrel BBQ/Hog Thaid restaurant project in Del Ray as it works its way through the approval process. Please record my support of this project when it comes up for discussion.

Thank you,

Tod Sirois
My family is really looking forward to some new restaurants opening in the neighborhood and, relative to the hundreds of belching lawnmowers that run every weekend in our neighbor's yards, have no concerns about emissions from a single BBQ restaurant. We think the restaurant owner's choices in offering three varieties of dining that are underserved in the area is a great idea, and while we can't utilize the late night dining without hiring a babysitter, we're thrilled that the child-free and younger folks will have more choices of places where they can meet their friends AND be able to walk home safely after having a beer or three instead of trying to drive.

Thank you for supporting this great local company!
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<tr>
<th>Issue Type:</th>
<th>Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name:</td>
<td>John</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name:</td>
<td>Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Address:</td>
<td>116 East Randolph Ave, Alexandria</td>
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<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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<td>State:</td>
<td>VA</td>
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<td>Zip:</td>
<td>22301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>703.549.8087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnmscott@mindspring.com">johnmscott@mindspring.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Del Ray - Pork Barrel BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments:</td>
<td>I want to give my full support to the Pork Barrel BBQ restaurant. Really looking forward to it opening it. It will be a great asset to the neighborhood. Please keep Alexandria open and inviting to small businesses that create jobs. js</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COA Contact Us: Hog Thaid SUP

I wanted to express my full support for the Hog Thaid SUP. Mr. Anderson has been more than accommodating to the community and its requests to ensure that the new businesses planned for the old Citgo station site on Mt. Vernon Avenue are good community partners. Mike has committed what I believe is beyond reasonable to ensure that the neighborhood is not negatively effected by his businesses. We look forward to his restaurants enhancing Del Ray and hope that the actions of a small minority do not prevent this respected business partner from being successful in Del Ray.

Thank you.
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<tr>
<th>Issue Type</th>
<th>Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>Jeffrey</td>
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<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Address</td>
<td>1001 Ramsey Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>2023526801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeff@jefflee.org">jeff@jefflee.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Pork Barrel BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>I support the initiative to allow Pork Barrel BBQ to operate in Del Ray.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support Pork Barrel BBQ

I am a Del Ray homeowner, commercial property owner, and I work and play in Del Ray. I am writing today to express my support of the SUP request from Pork Barrel BBQ. Del Ray needs this type of business. Please approve their request.
Please respond to Renee Boudreau


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Renee
Last Name: Boudreau
Street Address: 10 W Del Ray Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301-1524
Phone: 703-519-0829
Email Address: artful17@hotmail.com
Subject: Pork Barrel BBQ coming to Del Ray
Please know that I support Pork Barrel BBQ coming to Del Ray. They've made it clear that they want to make neighbors happy and will, in fact, be good neighbors—and good for Del Ray (and Alexandria via taxes earned). I've lived in Del Ray for over 16 years (12 here and 5 in previous Del Ray home) and appreciate the evolution of this neighborhood which is largely because of the businesses that have taken a chance to open here—and attract new homeowners, other businesses and visitors. Please recognize the value they offer and do what is necessary to let them operate here.
I am writing to express my general support of the applications made by the owners of the proposed Pork Barrel BBQ business on Mt. Vernon Ave. in Del Ray. I am a 14-year resident of Del Ray, and have been very pleased with the degree to which the owners of this prospective business have solicited and acted upon community input in the process of developing their plans. I feel that they have gone above and beyond their duty to accommodate neighborhood concerns. Most importantly, I feel that the business will be an overwhelmingly positive addition to Del Ray and I welcome their arrival.

Sincerely,
Kathy Patrick
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Jill
Last Name: Rogers
Street Address: 14 Rosecrest Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 571-312-8851
Email Address: jrogers010@yahoo.com
Subject: Hog Thaid SUP

Mayor and City Council -

I am writing to express my sincere desire to welcome the 3 new restaurants to Mt. Vernon Avenue. My husband and I could not be happier with the development of the Avenue and the addition of these restaurants. In addition, we have heard anecdotal stories in the past of businesses that have had difficulty opening businesses on the Avenue because they have met such resistance from other businesses that are already on the Avenue. This is not good for business, this is not good for Alexandria. This makes me a pretty disappointed resident and supporter of Del Ray to hear that this could go on.

In addition, the several empty storefronts on Mt. Vernon Avenue are embarrassing and a much bigger problem to the residents of this neighborhood than another XYZ shop. There is no reason why we don't have a diverse, competitive business environment up and down the Avenue. Permits, high rents, etc. may be keeping folks away, but it is the job of the City of Alexandria and the taxes we pay to promote
business and in turn a better quality of life for its residents.

Development of the Avenue does that. Prohibiting or making it nearly impossible for new businesses to open is not going to do much to keep our status as one of the most coveted walkable neighborhoods.

Please approve the Hog Thaid SUP so that these business owners can start their business - and start providing a much needed diversity to the current restaurant offerings on the Avenue.
Pork Barrel BBQ

I am writing as a Del Ray neighbor of the proposed Pork Barrel BBQ restaurant, to voice full support for approval of its SUP. Not only am I one of a large group of neighbors that supports the restaurant, but I cringe at what a couple of extremely vocal paranoiacs in the neighborhood are doing to torpedo this permit and, in doing so, give our neighborhood and Alexandria the reputation of being anti-business, even anti-independent businesses we claim to support. Please do the right thing and represent the overwhelming majority of neighbors in their support for this restaurant, rather than caving into a couple of neighborhood wing-nuts.

Best,

JC
Hello-

My husband and I live in Del Ray and fully support the opening of Pork Barrel BBQ! We can't wait to eat there in Del Ray. Don't let a few negative residents spoil it for everyone else.

Celeste Crutchfield
Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

Attached please find a letter from the Mount Vernon Group of the Sierra Club about an air quality issue in Del Ray. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Mary Kadera
Chair, Mount Vernon Group
May 1, 2010

To the Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Mount Vernon Group of the Sierra Club is writing to express its concerns about a Special Use Permit that has been filed to operate a restaurant in Del Ray that will emit significant smoke and particulate matter. We’re urging the city government to take every possible action to ensure that the owner of the restaurant use the best available technology to mitigate the pollution that his establishment will generate.

Hog Thaid has filed Special Use Permit #2010-0011 to operate a combination Asian Fusion / woodsmoke BBQ restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. The only detail given in the Application regarding the ventilation system is “vented up to two and a half stories and expelled.” Hog Thaid plans to operate a hybrid gas woodsmoker a minimum of 10-12 hours per day. If a state-of-the-art carbon filter/ventilation system similar to that used by Rocklands is not installed, we are concerned that the smoke and particulate matter from this restaurant could generate significant pollution and create health concerns for residents nearby.

The main air pollutants in wood smoke include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, air toxins and particulate matter. Several studies have shown that exposure to wood-smoke reduces lung function, especially in children, and increases coughs and other respiratory diseases. For vulnerable populations, such as people with asthma, chronic respiratory disease and those with cardiovascular disease, wood smoke is particularly harmful— even short exposures can prove dangerous.

We’re asking the city government to add conditions to the SUP so that the owner is required to install the best available technology, and more specifically, a carbon filter/air scrubber and dilution fan. We believe this is absolutely in keeping with the city’s Eco-City initiative, which strives to create "places where people can live healthier and economically productive lives while reducing their impact on the environment." The city recently spent millions of dollars fighting with the owners of the Mirant power plant in Old Town, trying to get the plant closed or cleaned up, based largely on the concerns about the particulate matter that the plant was emitting as a health risk to nearby citizens. Obviously, the Mirant plant was emitting much more particulate matter than this restaurant would, but it could be argued that it’s counterproductive to bring in new point sources for particulate matter pollution when the city has already indicated its commitment to reducing same.

We hope you will carefully consider this request.

Sincerely,

Mary Kadera
Chair, Mount Vernon Group
COA Contact Us: Support Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley.
Mark Hutto to: alicia.hughes, council, deipepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Please respond to Mark Hutto

Time: [Mon May 03, 2010 11:19:29] Message ID: [21271]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Mark
Last Name: Hutto
Street Address: 2406 Mt. Vernon Ave.
    City: Alexandria
    State: VA
    Zip: 22301
Phone: 703.622.2402
Email Address: mvhutto@yahoo.com
Subject: Support Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray
As property owner of a residence mentioned above on Mt. Vernon Avenue, just 2 blocks from the proposed restaurants, I am in strong support of the restaurant owners requests and support what they have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including compromising on the BBQ cooker and hours of operation. I support having late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that they support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am and 1 am weekends, especially since they were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee and that the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted in support of these hours of operation.
We must support new local businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community in a positive way.
Development on Mt. Vernon Ave.

We have lived in Del Ray since 1993 and have loved seeing the community develop and grow, especially the Mt. Vernon retail district. It is terrific to see such a vibrant and diverse group of restaurants interested in locating in Del Ray, which will significantly add to our neighborhood flair. The restaurant owners have made significant revisions to their business plans to accommodate neighbors and should be allowed to proceed with their investments. We are happy to see the positive impact that this and other development has had on the appearance of the Avenue and appreciate the work that you all have done to make this work for all parties involved.
I am writing this in support of the Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray. From every indication a group of responsible individuals want to open a new small business in the Del Ray neighborhood, yet after making concession after concession, to appease a small group of objectors, they are still coming under fire.

I find it disturbing that in an environment where the economy is struggling, a small business that will create jobs, add to the tax base and provide a welcome service to the neighborhood is coming under such pressure. If every potential small business is subjected to this level of oppressive scrutiny, it sends a very clear message to other potential new enterprises – don’t do business in Alexandria. I would hate to see that happen in such tremendously vibrant and diverse community. From conversations I’ve had with individuals in the community I only hear support for this new business. It appears a bit disingenuous that a group of individuals are objecting to a responsible business plan that is replacing a toxic filing station.
I come from the west coast -- having lived in Seattle and Portland. I have seen what a pro-business environment has done to benefit Seattle and what an anti-business environment has done to negatively impact Portland.

Additionally, I support Prol Barrel's request for late night hours -- midnight on weekdays and 1:00 a.m. on weekends. I would be great to have a place to have a meal after 9:00 p.m. on weekdays.

I hope you support this new venture especially after concessions have been made in the business plan and additional expenses have been incurred to address the concerns of the few in the community.

Kirk Hansen
Pork Barrell BBQ in Del Ray

We would like to express our support for the permit application of Pork Barrell BBQ in Del Ray. We should be doing everything we can to attract entrepreneurs to Alexandria, especially Del Ray, which is fast becoming a "foodie" destination, with local gems such as The Dairy Godmother, Pizzaiolo Cafe and Bar, Taqueria Poblano, Evening Star, Del Merei Grill, and so many others. We recently purchased a new home in Alexandria, and while we were not able to afford to buy in our preferred neighborhood of DelRay, we got as close as we could, in Arlandria (Lenox Place and Sunnyside) entirely because we love the proximity to DelRay and the community we love so much. However, we are appalled by the growing property taxes in Alexandria, and as a policy expert in small business growth policy on Capitol Hill, I’m somewhat embarrassed to be living in an area that is so hostile to people with dreams and the courage to step out and start a business, hire local residents, and make a positive impact on the community. As such, I vow to work AGAINST any Member of the Council
who votes against small business, such as Pork Barrell BBQ and similar entrepreneurs who wish to offer late night options in Del Ray. I urge you to support Pork Barrell BBQ and other entrepreneurs who recognize the opportunities in our great community.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Best regards,

Aaron and Meredith West
Wilma Goldstein
2700 Dartmouth Road #3
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-461-0120
goldsteinwilma@aol.com

Subject: Pork Barrel BBQ
I am disturbed to find out that the objections to a new Del Ray restaurant, Pork Barrel BBQ, may keep them from getting an operating permit. Since moving to this area in 1975 I have lived about half of the time in DC and half in northern VA. It has been exciting to see the development of Del Ray and the surrounding parts of Alexandria so that it is now possible to walk or drive short distances to enjoy theater, museums and restaurants and not have to drive into DC or Maryland. It seems to me the way to keep this area thriving is to meet as many people’s preferences and varied tastes as possible. There are a lot of BBQ lovers and the prospective owners of this restaurant seem to be doing everything they can to be responsive to any stated objections. At this point it is difficult to understand the foundation of these remaining objections.

I spent ten years working at the U.S. Small Business Administration and in the last eight years it was in a program that gave technical assistance to those who wanted to start
their own businesses. It is very hard to start and grow a business; the failure rate in a good economy is high. Please don't put up artificial barriers to what sounds like it would be a great family restaurant that has done everything it can to accommodate the wishes of its neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wilma Goldstein
COA Contact Us: Support for Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray

Alyson Austin to: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

05/02/2010 11:11 AM

Time: [Sun May 02, 2010 11:11:22] Message ID: [21237]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Alyson
Last Name: Austin
Street Address: 2600 DeWitt
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone:
Email Address: alyson_austin@hotmail.com
Subject: Support for Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray

To the Mayor and City Council,

My name is Alyson Austin and I have lived in Alexandria off-and-on for the last 15 years. I worked in D.C. for many years then seized an opportunity to move west and start my own business. I only took this particular opportunity because it allowed me to split my time between Orange County, California, and Alexandria, Virginia.

When in Virginia I live in Del Ray, I'd rather not be anywhere else in Virginia. I stay in Del Ray because of everything that Del Ray has to offer... food, shopping, quiet streets, accessible transportation (bus and metro-line), fun people and above all a safe neighborhood. I never rent a car when I at my Del Ray home, because I can walk everywhere I need to go or catch the bus/metro. It is an ideal location for me and it is so accessible for all of the appointments and business that I have when I am in the D.C. area.
When I heard that a BBQ restaurant was being considered as an addition to the Del Ray community, I was thrilled! Another option (different from anything else I've seen in Del Ray recently) and it means more commerce coming into Del Ray when other cities and towns around the country are losing businesses at an alarming rate in this economy.

Let me explain that when I am in California, I live in a mixed use, 15-story, "high-rise" building. We have two restaurants, a real estate office and a few shops that occupy the ground floor of the building and the nearby buildings. One of the restaurants is a Vietnamese place and it is a delight to have in our community. It offers good food, great consumer-traffic and a perfect gathering place for me and my friends. I have never been offended by the food or smells coming from that location. They serve hearty dishes that do not offend the senses. I feel the same can be said for food from a BBQ restaurant. The necessary kitchen ventilation will be dictated by city/state code and none of the neighbors will feel the impact of a restaurant like that coming to Mt. Vernon Avenue.

I want good things for Del Ray and I feel this particular restaurant (with the luxury of an experienced restaurateur at its helm) will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Thanks for allowing me to share my story and support for Pork Barrel BBQ. I hope cooler heads on the City Council will prevail and this business will be permitted to thrive in Del Ray!

Sincerely,

Alyson Austin
Personal cell: 909-224-1869
I support Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar and Asian Fusion project in Del Ray.

I appreciate all the owners have done to address issues raised by neighbors, including compromising on the BBQ cooker and hours of operation.

I support having late night dining options in Del Ray, and ask that the city support the compromise hours of operation of 12 am weekdays and 1 am weekends. These hours were recommended by the Del Ray Citizens Association Land Use Committee, and the Del Ray Citizens Association Executive Board voted unanimously in support of these hours of operation. We must support new, local, tax-paying businesses in Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Ave to continue to help grow our community. If Del Ray and Alexandria create an anti-business climate, all the progress that has been made on Mt Vernon Avenue will start to unwind.

Thank you.
As a long time resident of Del Ray (renting since the late 80s and a homeowner since 1992), I am in full support of Pork Barrel Barbeque coming to Mt. Vernon Avenue.

I moved to Del Ray in the late 80s and lived with roommates because it was cheap and close to the Metro. My friends and I all worked on the Hill and the row house we rented on East Nelson Avenue was ideal for us. I chose to buy a house in 1992 because of the neighborhood's potential and its proximity to Old Town and DC. I chose to stay because of the village like charm of Mt Vernon Avenue with its accessible shops and restaurants.

My husband, dog and I walk down the Avenue at least twice a day. Our restaurants are where our friends from DC and other parts of Virginia want to go. It is a fare cry from the Mt. Vernon Avenue of the late 80s and early 90s. As I recall there was a biker bar, a bait shop, a tv repair shop and plenty of vacant buildings.
Now

Del Ray is a destination for people outside of the neighborhood. I was in
New York last week for an event. Seated at my table were New Yorkers who
has visited the Cheesetique during a recent trip to DC -- they raved about
the neighborhood. Imagine, New York City dollars flowing into Del
Ray!

Pork Barrel Barbeque and the other planned restaurants will only
enhance the activity on the Avenue. The owners are our neighbors and we
should be thrilled that they want to invest in Alexandria, rather than DC
or Arlington. I am amazed and actually embarrassed by what the owners have
had to endure because of a vocal minority of neighbors who apparently has
no issue with the filthy, smelly, eye-sore of a gas station that occupied
the spot for years. A nasty gas station which was there when they
purchased their homes, yet no one petitioned to close it because of the
emmissions or trash that swirled around that place.

I also support the
owner's request for extended hours. Let the market determine if late hours
will work in Del Ray. As I understand it, they have already scaled back
their initial request. But personally, my husband and I would love to have
a place to eat after 10:00 p.m.. Like so many in this area, we work late
and travel, a nice meal out instead of a bowl of cereal at 10:00 p.m. would
be great more times than we’d like to admit.

Finally, I think the city
of Alexandria needs take into account the risk of developing a reputation
as anti-business. Small businesses have always been the backbone of the
American economy. We should applaud and support individuals who want to
invest in this community, not make it more costly and difficult. Pork
Barrel has done what they need to do. Please help us welcome and support
them.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Karen Johnson
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Carole Clark

106 E. Monroe Ave
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-548-9124
caclark99@aol.com

Subject: 
Del Ray
I support this project. The restaurants add a vibrancy to the Del Ray experience. Having some later night options will be good for business.

Comments: 
Also, it sounds like the owners have responsibly responded to the concerns about air pollution and traffic. We should approve the SUP for this initiative.
COA Contact Us: Por Barrel Bar B Q

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

Cynthia Clemmer to: paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, 05/01/2010 11:15 AM

Please respond to Cynthia Clemmer

Time: [Sat May 01, 2010 11:15:07] Message ID: [21227]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Cynthia
Last Name: Clemmer
Street Address: 2303 Commonwealth Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7039660403
Email Address: cclemmer@comcast.net
Subject: Por Barrel Bar B Q

Please support this business and the two additional restaurants that are TRYING to make Del Ray their home.

These individuals have made responsible and amenable choices that will support Del Ray and further,

Alexandria.

Other than the changes that have already been made to their operating plan, burdening them further with extraneous and unnecessary requirements and expense will only serve to drive these businesses away and will further discourage any new business that may want to tread into this very, seemingly, volatile environment.
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Steven Bezman
12 Rosecrest Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
703-836-6024
steven.p.bezman@frb.gov

Subject: Del Ray business hours
I have lived in Del Ray for over 30 years, and have watched it evolve and develop. The city of Alexandria and other stakeholders are to be commended for the many improvements.

I am writing to express my concern for recent action to extend business operating hours.

It is important to preserve and maintain the Del Ray accomplishments, and I believe business hours past 11:00 PM during the week and past 12:00 midnight on weekends will negatively affect the unique aspects of Del Ray.

I encourage the Mayor and City Council to limit business operating hours.

Thank you for considering my views.

Steven P. Bezman

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Scott
Last Name: Farmery
Street Address: 2410 Sanford Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7035188473
Email Address: scott.farmery@ihg.com
Subject: Del Ray Restaurants

Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council -

We are writing to express our support for the restaurants that are currently looking to open at the Mt. Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue corner.

Having moved here 3 years ago - we were enticed by the idea that "the Avenue" was going to continue to be developed with shops and dining. We looked at homes closer to the Avenue and settled being a couple blocks west - every home we looked at marketed itself as being "steps away from the shops and restaurants of The Avenue". Up to this point we have been disappointed in the lack of growth along the Avenue and the number of shops that have succumbed to the economic climate.

My wife and I have attended neighborhood discussions on these restaurants and have listened impartially. To us it sounds like three local business folks are excited
about opening three additional dining options at a corner that housed a gas station when we moved here. It does sound like they have gone above and beyond what both the city and state require in regards to their smoker and its emissions.

We want Del Ray to continue to develop as a neighborhood that has something to offer for everyone - we need businesses to want to be here in Del Ray and not make it hard for them to bring good business to our neighborhood.

Please consider what is best for the whole community of Del Ray.

Best regards-
Scott & Joey Farmery
New restaurants on Mt. Vernon Ave

Please accept the recommendations of the DelRay residents like myself who live within a few blocks of the new restaurants being built by Mango Mikes.

The hours of the new restaurants should be limited to 11 pm Sunday-Thursday, and 12 am on Friday/Saturday, and they should have also been required to install state-of-the-art ventilation for the BBQ restaurant before being permitted.

Thank you for your time and service to the community,
Michael Spatz
19 W. Wyatt Ave
(703) 299-8525
COA Contact Us: Closing Hours of Mike Anderson's Hog Thaid in Del Ray

Jennifer Beach to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

04/20/2010 04:16 PM

Please respond to Jennifer Beach

Time: [Tue Apr 20, 2010 16:16:34] Message ID: [20940]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jennifer
Last Name: Beach
Street Address: 112 Stewart Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 571-331-0699
Email Address: jennifer.beach@gmail.com
Subject: Closing Hours of Mike Anderson's Hog Thaid in Del Ray

Good afternoon-

I would like to comment on the zoning request by Mike Anderson for the new Hog Thaid restaurant facility coming to Del Ray. I would like to add my voice to the request that this business observe closing by 11 pm on weeknights and midnight on weekends and install a carbon filter system in their facility to prevent smoke pollution in the neighborhood.

Del Ray cannot support the parking needs of too many more businesses without rezoning parking regulations, and as a family neighborhood, it needs to be quiet after 11 pm at night or midnight at the latest on weekend, with all local restaurants adhering to these guidelines.

As a close neighbor of Los Tios, Caboose Cafe, and
Cheesetique, and a Del Ray homeowner since 1996, I have seen a measurable change in our quality of life since they opened and became popular with diners.

Our street, the 200 block of Stewart Avenue, is often congested in the evenings with patrons parking their cars, and weekend nights (Thursday- Saturday) are especially congested. The same patrons return to their cars, sometimes after 11 pm, and talk loudly and make noise that wakes us, our dogs, children, etc. I know that the owners of these businesses aim to be good neighbors, and we enjoy living in a mixed use community, but zoning needs to be in place to make sure ALL business owners, especially those newly opening in Del Ray, adhere to the same standards as these established businesses.

I wholeheartedly request that the new restaurants owned by Mike Anderson, as well as any other new restaurants in the neighborhood, adhere to the closing hours mentioned above, and that ALL businesses close by midnight. Please don’t let Del Ray turn into something like the Courthouse/Clarendon/Ballston areas of Arlington, filled with drunken 20-somethings every weekend and impossible parking and driving for residents. Del Ray is a family neighborhood and needs to remain a safe place to live with accessible parking for residents and quiet evenings unmarred by loud visitors and smoke-filled skies from a BBQ restaurant right in the middle of the neighborhood.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Jennifer

Beach

112 Stewart Avenue
Dear Mayor and Alexandria City council members:

First, I apologize for any duplication of emails; you may have a prior email from me on this subject which is incomplete. Please disregard any prior emails on this subject. Set forth below are my comments:

We've resided on E. Oxford Avenue in Del Ray for almost 30 years and have greatly appreciated and benefited from the improvements to Del Ray and Mt. Vernon Ave that have occurred over the years. We survived Mac's bar and finding drunks asleep on our front porch, and now enjoy a wide variety of amenities that make Del Ray one of the best neighborhoods in the metro-DC area! We're excited about having even more variety in restaurant options in our immediate Del Ray neighborhood. However, we're compelled to share with you our concerns about the special use permit (SUP) requested at 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave (tax
map reference 034-02-06-08).

My neighbors and I are very concerned about the Hog Thaid SUP application. The applicant has asked to be open until 2am seven nights a week in a commercially low zoned area subject to the Mount Vernon Overlay. Restaurants in this area are not open past 11pm during the week and 12am on weekends. The applicant is asking for a precedent-setting change which will, if granted, be requested and followed by every other restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue. We believe this would change the nature of Del Ray and convert what has become a wonderful example of mixed use living into (eventually) a strip of late night bars. Unfortunately, once restaurants have late hours, they typically sell more alcohol, landlords see their success and raise rents. Eventually, the only tenants who can afford these rents are bars, and the small businesses and retail stores are forced out. Late night bars often also result in higher crime rates -- something we just don't need in Del Ray.

We very much do not want to lose the family friendly mixed use neighborhood we, and the City, have created. Until now, we have relied on the commercial low zoning and Mount Vernon overlay to protect us. However, with the downturn in the economy, we sense that Planning and Zoning and the City may be willing to make a short-sighted accommodation to a known and well-liked restaurant operator, Mike Anderson. We are concerned that this accommodation will have terrible long term consequences as the SUP can be transferred via an administrative application to another operator, and the accommodations given a well-known and liked operator may eventually fall into the hands of someone much less experienced. The combination of alcohol and late night hours is not a good one.

We are also concerned, again, about a precedent-setting deviation from the zoning requirements. While we too are impressed by Mike Anderson, we cannot rely on him to ensure that Mount
Vernon Avenue does not eventually become a late night bar strip. We must rely on the commercial low zoning and the Planning and Zoning Board, the Mayor, and the City Council to follow the law on this point and to safeguard Alexandria's citizens.

My neighbors and I have reviewed the SUP application in depth, and set forth below are our requests for a reasonable compromise. These have also been raised with the Del Ray Land Use Committee and Barbara Ross at Planning and Zoning:

(i) change in hours so that the restaurant closes by or before 10:00pm nightly (or at a minimum closing at 10:00pm Sunday through Thursday, and closing at 11:00 pm Friday through Saturday, with any outdoor dining to end every night by 10:00pm),

(ii) change in the cooker operation/ventilation to minimize the exposure to residents of smoke and cooking odors/pollutants),

(iii) restrictions on live entertainment and noise levels (no audible noise from property line);

(iv) outdoor dining tables limited and hours of operation ceasing by 10:00pm daily.

We ask that you take the above into consideration when reviewing the SUP application and most importantly limit the hours of operation during the work/school week to an 10pm closing (10pm closing on the patio).

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Jacobs and Bruce Condit
106 E Oxford Avenue
Alexandria VA 22301
I would like to join my neighbors and express my concerns about the SUP application for the proposed Hog Thaid restaurant and request:

(1) operating hours limited to no later than 11:00 PM consistent with other restaurants in area;
(2) number of outdoor seats limited, and no outdoor seating beyond 10:00 PM;
(3) restrictions on noise levels (no audible noise from properly line);
(4) strict requirements regarding cooker to minimize smell and exposure of residents to smoke.

Needless to say, I also request that whatever requirements are imposed will be strictly enforced.

The limit on operating hours is believed to be important to avoid setting a precedent for other operators who might request later hours, and to avoid the risk that the neighborhood will be turned into a
strip of bars. That restriction and the other restrictions are submitted to be important to maintain the quality of life in the neighborhood. All of these requests are considered to be highly reasonable and are important to ensure that property values in the immediate neighborhood are not decreased.

I, unfortunately, only became aware of the plans to open this particular restaurant recently and would greatly prefer that it locate elsewhere, such as among the nearby businesses on Route 1 where there is not a surrounding residential neighborhood. I do not believe that this neighborhood is the proper location for an establishment that, regardless how effective its process for minimizing the effects of smoke on the surrounding areas, is likely to produce a continuous odor, even when its equipment is operating at peak efficiency. Air cleaning equipment can also be very delicate and, when it is not operating properly, it is reasonable to expect that there will be a substantial effect on the neighborhood. It is my understanding that barbecues smoker smoke is particularly difficult for even the most sophisticated air cleaning equipment to handle. That's probably why most barbecue restaurants aren't located in residential neighborhoods. I don't object to a restaurant in this location, but I do think that it is absurd to permit a barbecue restaurant with a smoker.

There is also already a substantial traffic problem developing in the area around the intersection of Mt. Vernon Ave. and Oxford Ave. that will be increased by the introduction of another restaurant with (I understand) only minimal provision for parking. I often have to call for parking enforcement to tow or ticket cars parked in front of my driveway by people who either do not see that it is a driveway by a no parking zone or do not care. At the intersection of Mt. Vernon and Oxford, people often park in the cross walk, particularly when they want to make a quick stop at the bank across the street or one of the other nearby stores. This makes the already difficult task of turning onto Oxford from Mt. Vernon substantially impossible. I would like the entire corner from Mt. Vernon
Ave. to the driveway in the parking lot that is used for the Saturday Farmer's Market to be a no parking zone at all times. It would also be useful to put a traffic light at the Mt. Vernon/Oxford intersection because of the substantial amount of foot traffic in that area, particularly in the evenings and on Saturday mornings, and because of the lack of visibility caused by UPS delivery trucks parked across the street from the UPS Store.
Winfield Slade

To: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

I write to express strong support for the special use permit before the Council permitting the proposed, much-needed, smart growth Pork Barrel BBQ restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. As a young professional and homeowner in Del Ray, I can't wait for the opportunity to walk up the avenue and enjoy another choice in casual dining options. Similarly, I relish the choice of establishments to seek a beer or drink after work, after a long weekend, or to enjoy some time with friends. During these less than stellar economic times, we need to encourage smart growth and entrepreneurship to provide opportunities for our neighbors to eat locally - walking up the avenue and spending time in other shops, bars, restaurants, and coffee houses or custard counters (yum), in addition to bringing new tax paying customers to our great neighborhood.

Many of
my friends and neighbors can't wait for the new restaurant, and often
comments "what is taking them so long..." I hope the chattering
class of a few xenophobic vocal opponents does not discourage this much
anticipated grand opening.
I have recently been made aware of the SUP application for a barbecue restaurant at 2312 Mt. Vernon Avenue. I have reviewed the SUP and have some concerns:

1) The proposed late hours of operation (closing at 2 a.m.) seems to me to be inconsistent with current practices on the Avenue and certainly would be disruptive to those residents living near the restaurant. People love living in Del Ray and move to Del Ray because of the absence of these types of businesses.

2) The proposed time for loading operations (4 a.m.) seems very disruptive to surrounding residents.

3) I have been made aware of concerns about harmful emissions from these types of restaurants and I hope that research regarding this issue will be carefully considered before the City moves forward with the SUP.
Thanks you for your attention to this
matter,
Connie
Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members,

I am writing to you about the SUP for a barbecue restaurant at 2312 Mt. Vernon Avenue. I have reviewed the SUP and have some concerns:

1) The proposed late hours of operation (closing at 2 a.m.) which seems to me to be inconsistent with current practices on the Avenue and certainly would be disruptive to those residents living near the restaurant.

2) The proposed time for loading operations (4 a.m.) – again, this seems very disruptive to surrounding residents.

3) Finally, I have been made aware of concerns about harmful emissions from these types of restaurants and I hope that the research performed by concerned citizens and provided to you will be carefully considered before the City moves forward with the SUP.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.
Mary Riley
I am writing to express my concern about what I understand to be the proposed hours for a new BBQ restaurant on Mt. Vernon Avenue. I am told that the owner wants to remain open until 2 am. Del Ray is a wonderful, family-friendly neighborhood. I am concerned that a restaurant open until 2 am would become primarily a bar late at night and lead to noise and traffic when neighbors want to sleep. I believe existing restaurants in our neighborhood close by 11 pm during the week and by midnight on weekends. Those are reasonable hours for any new businesses as well.

I have also heard concerns about the air that may be vented to the neighborhood from the BBQ. If the air coming from the restaurant will contain smoke and pollutants, it should be treated before being vented.

Thank you for your attention to the quality of our neighborhood.