



November 25, 2014

Julia Chapman
Zoning Board of Adjustment
1515 Arch St., 18th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: **Opposition to Barber Shop Application**
Appeal No. 22952, Permit No. 527326
Address: 2136 West Passyunk Ave.
Hearing Date: December 9, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Dear Ms. Chapman,

The owner of the property located at 2136 West Passyunk Avenue has requested a letter in support of his plan to open a barbershop at this address. The owner and his representatives appeared before the GENA Zoning Committee on August 13, 2014 and again on November 12, 2014 to present the plans and answer questions from the Committee and community members.

After careful consideration of the applicant's plans and input from neighbors, GENA has decided to oppose applicant's plan to open a barbershop at this location. This property is one of the historic Girard Estates and, although the ground floor has been a doctor's office in the past, GENA would like to see this property be returned to residential use in conformity with the other properties on the block. Previous uses, including the doctor's office, were low impact and had a minimal effect on parking. A barbershop, on the other hand, would likely increase traffic and decrease the number of parking spaces available to residents.

In addition, the Girard Estates neighborhood already has a disproportionate number of personal services business, particularly nail and hair salons for women. Although the applicant has indicated that he intends to operate a salon for only men and children, if this change in use is permitted, a nail or hair salon for women could be opened in its place by this owner or by a future owner.

For these reasons, we request that the ZBA deny this appeal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Toki Rehder
Co-Chair of the GENA Zoning Committee

cc: Kenneth A. Young, Esq. (kyoungesq@aol.com)
Steve Cobb (steve.cobb@phila.gov)

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