

November 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mari Albright Estrada. It gives me great pleasure to write a letter on behalf of Naima Dar in support of her special request to increase the number of kids at her in-home day care. My two sons attend Montessori Mansion Day Care and we have gotten to know Naima and Shazia, a teacher assistant, to be supportive, conscientious, responsible and flexible. As I know your committee is considering her application for growing her daycare, I have no doubt that she will continue to provide exceptional care to all children while also maintaining her responsibilities as a homeowner in her neighborhood.

Pertinent to this application, Naima's conscientious-nature is paramount. She makes a lot of effort to ensure that her in-home daycare does not adversely affect her neighbors. There are several examples, each included below:

- a) Parents are contractually obligated to obey the 5 minute pick up/drop off period so that traffic continues to flow in her court. There has never been a time where more than two parents arrive to pick up or drop off their children at the same time in the 6 months that we have been involved in this daycare. We park in her driveway or in the cul-de-sac. Parking is ample and has never been an issue, even in the evenings when a number of neighbors come home at the same time I pick up my children.
- b) When planning special events, such as our Halloween party in October of this year, she purposefully hosted this event for parents during the day. She also limited this party to two hours. There were an additional three cars parked outside her home for this gathering, so I can't imagine the neighbors even noticed.
- c) Tours of her daycare are always scheduled for the daytime. Tours are on a case-by-case basis and happen so infrequently that I can't imagine a neighbor even noticing an extra car on the street.

My husband and I feel **strongly** that Naima should be granted this permit. We are talking about an additional 6 cars in the neighborhood on weekdays, which would include a car for an additional teacher assistant. If this were a commercial business like a bakery where large trucks were making deliveries in and out of the neighborhood, I could understand neighbor's concerns. None of the parents in this day care drive large trucks that could pose a safety threat to any of the neighborhood children, nor do we drive diesel trucks or anything else that could cause noise or pollution outside of normative neighborhood traffic.

**The day care is quiet.** During nice weather, children play outside in the yard for up to thirty minutes at a time. I can't imagine that kids giggling could pose a threat to the peace of mind to any neighbors. The children that Naima cares for include two infants, a 1 year old, a 2 year old and a 3 year old. The only kids who are walking are the 2 and 3 year olds. My 1 year old crawls, and the two infants are not yet mobile. How can two kids outside walking or playing pose any kind of nuisance to surrounding neighbors? Naima is organized and very mindful of not upsetting her neighbors. If she is granted this special permit to educate more kids in her daycare, she will set a schedule where kids play outside **on a rotation**. She wouldn't take twelve kids outside at once for safety reasons alone! She is very conscientious of her neighbors and wants everyone to live happily in peace. Naima has no plans to put in large, permanent structures like a full sized playground you might see at a park. We are talking

about a small, in-home day care where kids enjoy 30 minutes of playtime, weather permitting. Dogs in the neighborhood create more noise than these toddlers do.

The Dar family keeps up their property beautifully. We have never seen the lawn in disarray, trash outside of the trash bins, or anything else that would hinder property values. As a homeowner myself and as a mom who wants a responsible person helping my husband and I to raise our children, I am observant and aware of potential signs that might indicate someone is irresponsible. She maintains the screens in her windows, picks up after her dog, maintains the shrubs and lawn regularly, takes out the trash on assigned trash days, puts the trash cans back in a timely manner, and maintains her property as any responsible person would. I mention these things to illustrate that the Dar family are very conscientious people. ***They are proud homeowners who would not do anything to decrease property values for neighbors or for themselves.***

I appreciate the process we have in place regarding petitioning the Zoning Board for special permission. I see no reason that Naima's application would be denied: This is not a loud, intrusive business or factory. My feeling is that the neighbors are misinformed about what having an in-home day care of this size actually entails. If they are misinformed, I understand why this request has been disputed. However, there are no arguments or evidence that has convinced me that any of the potential reasons for this disputed petition are valid. We strongly support Naima's request for this special permit.

Sincerely,

Mari Albright Estrada