

CB22-016
ZRA 01

Fwd: DALE MARTINS

akins10685@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 12:22 PM

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

FILE COPY

Address of concern: 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD 20723

I am writing on behalf of Dale Martins. She runs a professional dog grooming business in our neighborhood that meets a much needed service. My dog has been to several groomers and has always been afraid but with Dale she goes right in because of the kindness Dale shows to her.

Dale has done everything that the county has asked of her. She is not hurting anyone or being a nuisance in anyway to our neighborhood. If it wasn't for a referral to her, I wouldn't have even known that she had a business on her premises.

Dale tailors services to meet her customers special requirements and financial budgets. Not all of us can afford the high price of dog salons. I understand that Dale is less than 1% shy of the required area in her yard. I think an exception should be made to allow her to continue her grooming business. I am sure exceptions have been made for matters that are more than that in the county.

This 1% is minimal and should be given an exception. Please consider this because it is of value to our neighborhood and the !% is truly minimal and not enough to be arguing over.

Thank you!
Anna Akins

Dale Martins

lenakroll@verizon.net

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 7:24 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard Country Council Members,

I am writing in support of a fellow Howard Country resident, Dale Martins. I have known Dale for several years, she has been my dogs groomer but I've also gotten to know her as a fellow resident. Dale cares deeply for Howard County and for our local southern Howard County community. I've seen her out several times supporting our local community and has been available on several occasions to support my needs. She is a kind and generous woman. She has worked diligently to meet the Howard County requirements and her property just falls short of the required area for her property. I ask you to respectfully consider your decision in approval of the Martin residence on 10688 Harding Road, Laurel 20723. As a member of this community I support Dale and her business, it is so wonderful to have a small business owner here in southern Howard County. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Lenora L Kroll

Dale Martins - Terrier Grooming

Linda G. Jones [deltarn2@verizon.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2016 6:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Importance: High

I am writing in support of Dale Martins at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD 20723. Dale provides a very hard to find service in that she can groom Terriers-show dogs that must be hand stripped. Finding someone capable of stripping terriers is very difficult, and Dale has helped us with our Airedales. Dale's property is quiet, not very close to neighbors, and I understand she is less than !% shy of the area required by the county in her yard. Dale has always tailored her services to meet customers time and date requirements. I understand from other owners that she also helps them when there are financial limitations and provides services for the dogs at a lower rate. Please consider her petition to be allowed to continue with her very nice facility that her husband has built for her. It is welcoming for the dogs, and for the owners.

thank you in advance.

Linda G. Jones
13928 Westview Forest Drive
Bowie, MD 20720
cell: 301-318-4780
deltarn2@verizon.net

BA 15-029C - Dale and Timmy Martins Conditional use - this one!

Soucy, Peggy [soucy@eurovision-us.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 11:30 AM

To: CouncilMail

Apologies for second sending; when I originally sent this letter from my personal email, the formatting didn't set properly. Please accept this version for the record:

February 29, 2016

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**RE: Dale and Timmy Martins
BA 15-029C
Conditional use for pet grooming within the residence
10688 Harding Road, Laurel**

Dear County Council Members,

I'm writing in strong support of, and asking you to approve, Dale and Timmy Martin's request for conditional use for pet grooming services at their home in Howard County.

I've known Dale and Timmy for 10 years and eagerly attest to the solid professionalism and unique skill they bring to the pet grooming business to include how well-connected and respected they are within the dog show and veterinary communities, how capably and instinctively they handle and achieve positive behavioral results from the animals within their care, and how clean and sanitary they keep their operation. They are always kind and take exceptionally good care of my dogs. I've observed, been impressed by, and indeed envy, how they are able to communicate with and control the actions of each animal they work with - they possess a sincere passion for what they do and it shows! This is all accomplished with quiet competence.

For me, however, it is very personal that they receive permission for conditional use. I have two Lakeland Terriers who I regularly have stripped so they look more like show dogs instead of the more typical clipping an average pet receives. Stripping dogs takes a certain expertise and a lot of time. I travel 1-1/2 to 2 hours each way to Laurel (depending on traffic) because I haven't found a competent groomer in Virginia who will strip my dogs so professionally.

Although not a citizen in your county, while I wait for my dogs I support small businesses, shops, parks and restaurants every couple of months. It seems to me that what the Martins offer Howard County is a fairly exclusive business and with their talent in particular, one that is bringing revenue to the entire community by encouraging their customers to explore.

I've had a great time discovering different nearby places and recognize Howard County as a dynamic, growing community. I have come to appreciate how quiet and peaceful it can be. I've also noticed the mixed-use neighborhoods, particularly near the Martins, where an assisted living center, daycare and sandwich shop are unobtrusively nestled within the neighborhood creating an environment that feels close knit, accessible, convenient, and yes, special.

Please approve a variance for the Martins - it would be consistent with the placement of other existing small businesses and they are an integral part of your county's offerings to its citizens and, yes, even to those of us who regularly visit from afar.

Thanks for your kind consideration,

Peggy
Peggy Soucy
4905 Wolf Run Shoals Rd
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703.328.5900

10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD 20723 - Martins - property just shy of required 1 acre for business

Donna Hall [donna@cruisevacationsintl.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:53 AM

To: CouncilMail

To whom it may concern:

I have been using Dale Martins for many years to groom my dogs. She has always been caring, attentive, and sensitive to any special needs I've had. I currently have a rescue that was abused, and she personally handles him with great care. I can't imagine taking my dogs anywhere else.

I am writing this to request that an exception be made to allow her to operate her business at the above referenced address even though it is shy by .1% of the required one acre. The dogs are groomed in a building sitting next to her house, with an entrance door between the house & the grooming building. This is located in a quiet area of Howard County, surrounded by trees, land, and homes. Dale has always provided her grooming services to those who can't pay or to shelters in need. She is a kind and caring person. I live in the Burtonsville/Colesville area of Montgomery County & I happily drive the 10 miles to Dales where I know my dogs, who are my family members too, will be well cared for.

Please do not put her out of business, she is an asset to your county.

Best regards,

Donna Hall
Senior Luxury Travel Advisor
Cruise Vacations International
A Virtuoso Member Agency
620 Hungerford Drive, #14
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 217-9474 or (800) 955-0119
donna@cruisevacationsintl.com

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Custom Land Tours, and Deluxe Resorts and Hotels Worldwide"**



Timothy McClain, MD
Potomac Physicians, PA
8871 Gorman Rd
Laurel, MD 20713
February 28, 2016

Dear Councilmen of Howard County, MD

I've known Dale Martins for 25 years as her doctor, but I've also known her for much of that time as a successful small business owner. She has suffered greatly the past 2 years due to the complaint of a single person, who was mad at her for reasons not related to her business. As a result, she has had difficulty in continuing her successful pet grooming business that has in the past employed up to 3 others, and therefore provided significant tax payments to Howard County and the state of MD over the past 20-30 years. *She has never had a complaint from a neighbor about her business*, either in her current location since 2007, or in her previous location in Burtonsville for over a decade. She runs a clean, quiet business on nearly an acre, with much of her property being bordered along WSSC property near the reservoir. The other 2 sides are multiple acre lots. You would not even know there was a business there when you view her property from the street. *Her neighbors are in favor of her keeping the business.*

The county has admonished her for running her type of business on less than the 1 acre required. She in fact has 99.3% of an acre, being only 310 square feet short. Certainly 1 acre was perhaps a convenient number to pick when the law was legislated many years ago, but having 99.3% of an acre should meet the letter of the law in principal and certainly in a practical sense.

The situation has been hurting her health the past year or more as the saga has continued. Frankly it's been tearing her up due to the stress of not knowing whether she can continue a business she is so passionate about. Not only are local residents dependent on her for caring for their beloved pets, but she also is active in regional and national dog shows (like Westminster) in which her clients have won top prizes, in part due to her amazing talents. She is suffering the typical symptoms of prolonged stress including insomnia, GERD, anxiety, and depression. This is all a result of the stress of the past 2 years. Previously she had always been a very upbeat person with no health issues.

As a small businessman in Howard County myself, I implore you to provide Dale with the conditional use permit that will allow her to continue her small business. We can't afford to lose successful businesses like this – they provide needed services, they provide employment to others, and they pay taxes into our county and state coffers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Timothy McClain, MD

Dale Martins - 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD 20723

Wicklein [wick8404@verizon.net]

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 1:37 PM

To: CouncilMail

Howard County Council

We are writing in support of Dale Martin and her personal grooming services. Our Wheaton Terrier, Roxy, is a very unique dog. She has a very timid and anxious personality. Dale's property offers safety to our Roxy. The privacy it offers a quiet, calm and safe environment. The isolation also offers a traffic free situation for us as well. Dale, whom we call Roxy's grandmother is so very special to our family. Dale treats Roxy like one of her own. We greatly appreciate Dale and her relationship with Roxy. We were unable to have Roxy groomed until we met Dale in our neighborhood. Please consider allowing Dale to offer this very special service to our sweet Roxy. Sincerely,

Christine and Robert Wicklein

Support for Dale and Timothy Martins

Marjorie Perdue [perduewhite@verizon.net]

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 10:46 AM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing this e-mail letter in support of Dale and Timothy Martins request for a variance on their property so that Dale can continue to run her dog grooming business. She has been grooming my two shih tsu's since they were puppies (12 years ago). Not only is she extremely good at her trade, she has provided excellent advice for my dogs health issues and other concerns regarding their care. She is a true professional, and truly loves her profession as well as her furry clients.

Please consider the variance for the Martins property.

Marjorie Perdue

10107 52nd Avenue

College Park, MD 20740

Fwd: 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, Md 20723

Betty [bzlab@aol.com]

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 10:43 AM

To: CouncilMail

Sir:

I have dealt with the Norwich Breeder, Dale Martins for over 5 years as we purchased our Norwich Terrier from her and have used her for grooming our dog over the years. There are very, very few breeders that can groom these dogs. Dale tailors services to meet her customers special requirements and this is one of those cases.

I understand there is controversy over less then 1% of her required area in her yard that meets specs. It seems very odd for this issue when you view her property and how they have cared for it to meet their needs.

Betty Fatzie
335 Tschiffely Sq. Rd.
N. Potomac, Md. 20878

support for Dale Martins

geislars@verizon.net

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:20 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing in support of Dale Martins at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel< MD 20723. I would like to point out that her property is 1% shy of the required area that is needed, I have a champion Airedale dog and Dale offers a professional service of hand stripping terriers that is not easily found in Howard County. This is not a high volume business. She offers very tailored services for dog owners that show their dogs or have specific needs. It would be very difficult for me to replace the services at the price that she charges, I would have to travel as far as Frederick, which is not possible for me currently since I work full time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Linda Geisler

In Support of Mr. And Mrs. Timmy Martins

Beth Davis-Brown [bethdb@me.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:25 PM

To: CouncilMail

February 24, 2015

Beth Davis-Brown
[6196 Wooded Run Drive](#)
[Columbia, MD 21044](#)
[\(202\) 547-8101](#)
bethdb@me.com

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I write in support of Ms. Dale Hutton Martins, who lives at [10688 Harding Road in Laurel](#). As evidenced by her success at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City just last week, Ms. Martins is a dog groomer and breeder of Norwich Terriers of high expertise and national reputation. I met her when my husband and I acquired a Scottish Terrier over a year ago through inquiries to find someone who knew how to properly hand strip terriers.

I was recommended to Ms. Martins by a colleague with a champion Airedale. I have enjoyed her assistance with my dog's care and learned that she is a knowledgeable horse woman as well. Hers is not a high-traffic business but rather a low-key approach to helping clients with dogs in full show careers or owners like me who want their dogs groomed correctly per the breed standard.

Please consider favorably Mr. and Mrs. Martin's zoning request. I am happy to speak further with you on this issue at any time.

Sincerely,

Beth Davis-Brown

Dale Martins dog grooming zoning approval

Melissa Jones [kamamom@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2016 10:25 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: dalemartins722@gmail.com; Melissa Jones [kamamom@gmail.com]

Dale Martins dog grooming shop at 10688 Harding Rd, Laurel, more than any other small business that I know, deserves to receive the zoning approval to open her shop on her property. Dale has been grooming my dogs for 8 years. We first went to her because we had a badly abused foster dog that would scream and bite when his feet were touched. No other groomer would touch him without sedating and muzzling him. And then I found Dale. She very patiently worked with him for years and now, 8 years later, this dog is still with me and his nails can now be trimmed with no effort at all. There is no other groomer that was even willing to work with him without muzzling him, which would have put him under an extensive amount of stress, setting his rehab back weeks every time I needed his nails trimmed, but Dale took him on and has made all of the difference in the world to my dog.

We had an old English Shepherd that was blind and had a torn ACL. Dale groomed her as well and took extra care with her to keep her safe and stress free. She made sure that she did not put stress on my dogs knee while somehow managing to still trim her nails. I would have trusted no other person to handle my old girl.

I do not have a need for it, but she also is the only groomer that I know of in the state that grooms show dogs. That is a very difficult and tedious job that no one else will take on because of the amount of effort for so little money, but she trims these dogs to their owners stringent and demanding requirements.

It is the epitome of bureaucratic stupidity that her lot is 99.09% of an acre and all she needs to immediately rezone is 310 feet of land. That level of precision on a zoning license is ludicrous. There are rules, I understand that, but common sense HAS to come into play here. You have a small business that her neighbors want to be opened, provides a rare and valuable service to the community, and brings traffic to other local businesses, yet she is being denied the permit that she needs because of 0.91% of an acre. Dale loves grooming and deserves a chance to open her shop and improve your community.

Thank you,
Melissa Jones

Software Engineer/Data Analyst/User Interface Specialist at Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory
MS in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University

Dale Martins Grooming Business

Dara Laughlin [dhlaughlin09@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:16 AM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: DaleMartins722@gmail.com

We are contacting you in support of Dale Martins and the continuance of her grooming business. Dale has been grooming our show dog (a Norwich Terrier) for many years. We travel from the Tysons Corner, Va area every few months to have our dog stripped. She is the only groomer in the area that performs this type of grooming. She is excellent and would be sorely missed if she was not able to continue her business.

We hope you will resolve the issue at hand in her favor

Thank you.

Kip and Dara Laughlin

Zoning Case: Dale Martins, 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD

Allen Bickel [anbick1@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:21 AM

To: CouncilMail; DaleMartins722@gmail.com

Hello-

I am writing to your attention today, as a concerned citizen and dog owner, on behalf of Dale Martin having a location at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, MD.

I have known Dale for over 10 years having used her for the grooming of our dog Teddy, who is a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier with special needs.

Teddy have sever allergies that have not been able to be cleared up by veterinarians or any other groomer. Dale and Teddy have a special relationship that has been fostered by her over the years. She provides a no fee service to us due to this relationship that is unique and therapeutic to our loved pet. This can only be understood by a pet owner.

It was recently brought to my attention, that the zoning board is passing judgment on Dale to close down her grooming facility due to the fact that her property fails to meet the minimum area requirement by <1%. Doing so will have extenuating consequences that will be painful not only for her but with my family and others in this pet community, as I cannot afford to pay for grooming outside

at a service nor look forward to incur any additional vet bills due to the reemergence of the allergies. We have special needs that have to be met with her care and talents.

To shut her down would pose a critical hardship to our beloved family member, one that we have major concern.

In closing, I ask that you consider awarding Dale Martins a variance in order that she can continue her unique service to the community of pet owners. One that is of giving and not driven by money, a true passion of the heart.

Kindest regards,

Allen Bickel

14927 Windmill Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Support for Dale Martins

Caren [carenbobby@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:49 AM

To: CouncilMail

Hi

I am writing to support the zoning variance that Dale Martin is seeking. She provides a wonderful service in our county. She has been grooming my dog for 3 years. Her kindness with pets is unmatched. I had tried many groomers around the county. Big box stores claim my dog was bad so they could charge me more for difficult dog. This was almost double what Dale's fees are.

I know she had worked with the county to try and remedying the situation. Please allow her to continue carrying for our pets.

Caren Mitchell
301-520-1199

10688 Harding Road Laurel Maryland

Pat Norris [patnorrisindc@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 6:10 PM

To: CouncilMail

To Whom it May Concern:

I am contacting you to express my support for Ms. Dale Martins at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, Maryland.

I've known Ms. Martin for almost ten years and she has demonstrated not only a passion for her lifework but a heartfelt kindness toward creatures large and small.

As the owner of three terriers, I would be hard pressed to find someone to tend to them as Ms. Martins is an expert with terriers. Two of my dogs, 13 years of age, are a rare breed that others would be unable to manage due to an unfamiliarity with the breed and their advanced age. Therefore, I am willing to drive the distance to Ms. Martin's location for her to take care of my dogs.

It is a travesty that the county is threatening to close down Ms. Martin's vocation due to her location being .1 of an acre short of the county's regulation.

Please grant Ms. Martins an exception (waiver) so that she can continue to support us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Norris.

Local Business Concern

Amanda Russell [russella2.0@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 5:03 PM**To:** CouncilMail

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the council may be asking Dale to close the doors of her grooming salon over a seemingly inconsequential amount of land. As a regular customer I ask that you reconsider. Dale's personal attention is something I have not been able to find for my dog at any of the commercial chain salons. She does all of this with plenty of space while maintaining the residential nature of her surroundings.

Each time I visit Dale's salon, she and her employees take the time to put the owners and the dogs at ease and take wonderful care of us. I have never heard anyone complain nor have I witnessed any dogs in discomfort or distress. In fact it was a long standing customer that recommended me to Dale.

Upon arriving to the salon I am always able to find adequate parking on her property. I cannot imagine that any of the neighbors would have cause to complain about her business as I have never heard the dogs when outside of the salon itself, nor have I ever witnessed any pets outside without being under control of their owners.

It seems to me that Howard County would be losing a local gem should Dale and her groomers be forced to close their doors and I implore you to aid her in obtaining the modest parcel of land needed to come into compliance with city ordinances.

Thank-you for your time,
Amanda Russell
734-657-6776

Dales Grooming

Fran Hodges [franh320@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2016 6:43 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I'm writing with regard to a current issue with Dale Martins. I'm a senior citizen, who frequents her grooming facility often, since she not only performs a wonderful service, but has always charged very reasonable rates for all of my dogs. Living on a fixed income, and dealing with periodic veterinary fees that seem to constantly increase, she's been a real blessing to be available at such affordable prices for excellent grooming services. I understand that after all this time, there now seems to be a question regarding zoning concerns. I would greatly appreciate it if this matter could be resolved, in her favor, once and for all.

Many thanks,

Fran Hodges

Dale Martin's Grooming

Christopher M. Brown [chris.brown@ackermanbrown.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 10:23 AM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: IMG_1842.JPG (903 KB)

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my support for Dale Martins and her pet grooming business in Howard county, Maryland. I have an adorable Norwich Terrier dog that requires a specialized type of grooming known as stripping. And although I live in Bethesda, Dale is the closest (and best) groomer in the area offering this service. If her business were to be shuttered I have no idea where I would go, but I can almost guarantee that it would not be in Howard county. Closing the business of a hardworking and talented Maryland resident because her property fails to meet a technicality of the law while remaining well within its spirit would be a disservice to the county and the residents of Maryland. Please do the right thing and allow her to remain in business at her current location.

Best regards,
Chris Brown

Christopher M Brown
ACKERMAN BROWN PLLC
2101 L Street NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 393-5428

chris.brown@ackermanbrown.com



Dales Grooming Permit Process

Ronald Smith [ron.smith7@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 7:48 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: DaleMartins722@gmail.com; Ronald Smith [ron.smith7@verizon.net]; Sharie Smith [sharonesmith1949@gmail.com]

Good Afternoon ... I am writing you to solicit your help in approving Dale Martins license for "Dales Grooming" at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel MD, 20723. Dale has been grooming our Yorkies for fifteen years. She keeps a clean and safe environment for the pets and an easy safe access and departure from her grooming salon. I have never heard dogs barking from the driveway or street by her home. One would never know grooming takes place at the location. The wife and I have a number of friends that utilize Dale for their grooming needs.

We look to Dale for all our family pet grooming. We have taken our pets to PetSmart and another larger grooming facility in the past and found our pets were traumatized and injured because of shoddy, careless, indifferent care. In contrast, we have found Dale to treat our pets with care and professionalism. We hope, with your help, to continue to turn to Dale for our family pets grooming needs.

Sincerely Ron and Sharie Smith, 15317 Aylesbury Street, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Dale Martins' grooming business needed in Howard County

Susan [susanlynn123@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: dalemartins722@gmail.com

Dear Howard County Council Members:

Please approve the continuation of Dale Martins' grooming business in Howard County. Before being referred to Dale by Dr. Sallie Morris, I had to take my Cairn Terrier on a 120-mile round trip to Street, MD for the hand stripping that is required to maintain her coat. Few groomers know how to do hand stripping or offer it to the public, and the usual grooming practices (clipping) would cause my dog to lose her protective outer coat. Dale takes great pride in providing a service to Howard County, and has created a beautiful facility that does not detract from the neighborhood. Please keep this option available in Howard County so we don't have to seek these services outside of the county.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Susan Ensor
10087 Winstream Dr Apt 6
Columbia, MD 21044

**EXTENSION OF DALE MARTINS HOME FOR GROOMING SERVICES AT
10688 HARDING ROAD, LAUREL MD 20723**

Robert Cavaluchi [rcavaluchi@verizon.net]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 2:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: dalemartins722@gmail.com

Dale Martin has been grooming our "special needs" dog for a decade. Pippin is an adopted mix terrier, with a severe hip/back issue and fear of crates and automatic dryers. Dale treats him very gently, blow dries his hair by hand, and allows him to roam freely in her grooming area, instead of crating him. Pippin has a great fear of crates, and will hurt himself trying to get out of one. Dale understands his needs perfectly, and accommodates his needs beautifully. Her personal service is a bonus to our family and to the community. We have never witnessed any traffic or parking issues. She has already made a great financial sacrifice by trying to meet the zoning codes of Howard County, and attaching her grooming facilities to her home. Dale is a wonderful asset to the community, and a waiver, if not already given for her addition, should be granted. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Bob and Dotti Cavaluchi

Dales grooming

Devine, Kim [Kim.Puckett@oldgloryhd.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 1:28 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: dalemartins722@gmail.com

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing to you in reference to Dale's Grooming. It is my opinion that you should allow this business to exist in your county. Dale is a professional person and deserves to have a variance for 30 square feet! I know that you can allow for this small difference and let this very hardworking professional make a living out of her home.

I insist that you allow this immedialtley?

Thank you,
Kim Puckett

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Grooming by Dale

Parrott, Jessica [Jessica.Parrott@oldgloryhd.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 10:18 AM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** dalemartins722@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I am emailing you to ask that reconsider the closer od Grooming by Dale. This is a person that is trying to make something good happen, and it is unfair that you think you should shut her down. She provides a great business and has a small following. Not only is it unfair to her but to her clients, we think of our animals like our children and to find a trust worthy person is very hard.

Respectfully,
Jessica

Jessica Parrott
Motorcycle Sales Consultant



11800 Laurel Bowie Rd.

Laurel, MD. 20708

www.oldgloryhd.com

Phone: 301-575-0575

Fax: 301-5750572

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Grooming by Dale

Brennan, Dan [Dan.Brennan@oldgloryhd.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 10:02 AM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: dalemartins722@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

The area of Howard county is known to have several small businesses and support the little person trying to make their own. You are currently pushing to hurt a business that not only represents a great talent, but also the name of the area of Howard County. Grooming by Dale has clients who present in several shows and her shop brings more people into the area not only supporting her shop directly but support local business by doing other things while around. How many times do pet owners drop an animal off to be groomed and go to a local restaurant? Maybe they need to go to a grocery store... They are then supporting more businesses which in turn helps the county as they do their own things per visit and pet grooming session.

Please take the time to consider they are a small business based within your county lines and have already shifted operations to comply with code. Take your time and visit her shop for a tour and grooming session and you will see why she represent your county well!

Dan Brennan

Motorcycle Sales

Old Glory Harley-Davidson

<x-apple-data-detectors:///3/0>11800 Laurel Bowie Rd.<x-apple-data-detectors:///1/0>

Laurel, MD, 20708<x-apple-data-detectors:///1/0>

310-575-0575<tel:310-575-0575> Main line

Dan.Brennan@OldGloryHD.com<mailto:Dan.Brennan@oldgloryhd.com>

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Dale Martins

Brenda Cook [blcook2000@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 4:42 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: DaleMartins722@gmail.com

Good Afternoon,

I'd like to address the matter regarding Mrs. Dale Martins and her dog grooming business.

We met Mrs. Martins almost 3 years ago when she groomed dogs for another company. My dog was just a puppy then and I remember how very pleased I was with her service. I found her to be professional, knowledgeable and personable, most importantly, I trusted her with our family pet that we love so much.

When she started her own business, I became one of her regular customers as did many others. Her level of service remains outstanding. Her place of business is well maintained and its somewhat secluded so you really don't hear barking dogs.

Mrs. Martins provides a much needed community service. Pet lovers look for the same level of satisfaction from their pet professionals as they would for themselves *and* we remain loyal customers when we find the perfect fit.

I would ask that Mrs. Martins be given all due consideration. It would be ashame and a great loss to the community if Mrs. Martin's and Howard County couldn't work out their differences.

Regards,
Brenda Cook

Grooming by Dale

Corbett, Steve [Steve.Corbett@oldgloryhd.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 4:07 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** dalemartins722@gmail.com

To Whom it may concern:

I just learned that a small, local business, Grooming by Dale, may be asked to shut down! I've been going to Dale for years! I first met her when I was having my dog groomed at an establishment that she worked at. From the first time I met her and got my Standard Schnauzer professionally groomed by her, I knew that she was THE right person that I would trust with my dog! She then took a chance to start her own grooming business and it's a little bit further from where she was working, however, it's ALWAYS been well worth the extra distance! She is great at what she does! In fact, my kids take their dogs to her too! She is easy to work with, great with our pets and I believe it would be a great injustice if she were forced to shut down such a wonderful small business!

I remember when I took my dog to Pet Smart one day and a girl from the grooming area came running to the front to see my dog as I was checking out. She said that they don't ever get to see a Standard Schnauzer and that he was cut beautifully and asked who cuts him. I told her, "a woman named Dale from Grooming by Dale." She told me that Dale was the one who trained her! She went on to tell me how great Dale was and by looking at how my dog was cut, it had to have been Dale!

So, please do whatever you have to do to allow her to keep her grooming business! A lot of people depend on her and I know how hard it must have been for Dale to make the decision to go out on her own and be a business owner. Please don't make it any harder on her. In fact, you should be proud that Howard County has a small business owner that is a real professional at her craft and she has many, many happy clients!

Respectfully,
Steve Corbett

Steve Corbett

Sales Manager

www.OldGloryHD.com

301-575-0571 (P) -- 301-575-0695 (F)

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Zoning Exemption - Dale's Dog Grooming

LMR [lindamroberts@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 10:17 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear City Council,

I am writing you in support of a zoning exemption for Dale's Dog Grooming. The owner, Dale Martin, was informed by the local zoning board that her shop could not operate at its current location due to the fact it was located on just less than a full acre of land. Her shop is quite spacious and she keeps the dogs all secure in a clean, safe facility. The grooming services and customer attention Dale provides is second to none and I (and my little dog Briar) have been a loyal customer of hers for a long time. She is a capable, caring businesswoman who really loves the dogs that she grooms. She is also a conscientious neighbor who makes certain noise is kept to a minimum and that there is ample parking on her lot so the community is not inconvenienced. I would greatly appreciate if you would give consideration to her request for a exemption. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Roberts

Dale and Timmy Martins

Sonya Miller [sonya@millercci.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 7:40 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of Dale and Timmy Martins and the dog grooming business that they run out of their home in Laurel. We strongly support them being able to keep their business at their home. Howard County needs small businesses. It is very convenient having a local pet groomer in the area. Howard County residents want to take their pet to someone that is local and talented so they know that their pet will be in good hands. Most people do not want to drop their pet off at a store like Pet Smart and not know the groomer personally and not know how their pet will be treated.

Dale is an excellent groomer and is very passionate about what she does. She has often helped rescue dogs as well, at no cost. She loves what she does and it would be a financial burden to have to find a place to run her business out of.

I understand that they are short acreage but just by a few feet. Their adjacent neighbors are fine with them running their business and there is a vacant lot on the other side of them owned by WSSC. I think that exceptions can be made in the county depending on how businesses are situated on certain properties and how they affect neighboring properties.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sonya Miller

10430 Shady Acres Ln., Laurel, MD 20723

Timmy and Dale Martins

Jon Miller [jon@millerci.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 7:35 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members

The Plan Howard 2030 initiative speaks directly to the issue of having appropriate businesses in the communities which we live. There is ample documentation of service industries leaving Howard County in the past decade. If we are to have sustainable development, a hallmark of this plan, we need to address this with small businesses like Dale and Timmy Martins. There are daycare, assisted living centers, automobile repair, school bus companies, delis, hair dressers, etcetera, that serve the community in which we live. It alleviates road congestion, saves time and reduces our environmental impact. The Martins' business would add to the repertoire that already exists by helping us develop a true mixed use community.

If we are so shortsighted that these type of businesses are removed from the communities which they serve, routes 97 and 32 among others will need to be widened to four or more lanes as the population density and the need for additional services increases. These services will then be supplied by people from the surrounding counties.

Thank You

Jonathan Miller

10430 Shady Acres Lane

Dales Dog Grooming - Valued Mentor

cece@animalbehaviorcollege.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 2:32 PM

To: CouncilMail

Importance: High

To Whom it may Concern,

We would like to tell you about how wonderful Dales Dog Grooming is to us and the community.

We rely on volunteer groomers to give our students the hands on experience needed to help them become certified groomers in your community.

If you have questions or would like to speak with me, please let me know.

Best,

CeCe Koplín, ABCPG
Lead Program Manager
Certification Specialist
Animal Behavior College, Inc
888-900-3790 - Direct
866-844-1531 - Fax
cece@animalbehaviorcollege.com

PLEASE NOTE: I will be away on vacation JANUARY 28TH through FEBRUARY 4th.

On the Web: <http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalBehaviorCollege>

On Twitter: @animalbehaviorc

>>Please add us to your Safe Sender list<<

Dale Martins-Dog Grooming

Christina Edmonds [cgedmonds@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 12:52 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing on behalf of Dale Martins regarding her home grooming business for dogs and cats. I have known Dale for the past fourteen years. I first met her when she groomed my dog, Winston, at Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital. I immediately fell in love with her. Not only did she give my dog one of the best cuts he has ever had, but without fail she would come out from the glassed-grooming room to chat with me, tell me how Winston did, and tell me great tales about her dogs and others who had come through. She was friendly, approachable, and she always listened to my needs. Most importantly, she showed genuine care for every animal that sat on her table.

When Dale left Rocky Gorge, I had no choice but to follow her. I couldn't even imagine letting another person touch my dogs. They loved her and she so obviously loved them. She has an instinct with dogs and their owners that surpasses any pet caregiver I have met. When my Winston passed away nearly two years ago, Dale grieved with us. She knew everything we had been through in caring for his degenerative liver disease. She knew about his surgeries, his medicines, and his deteriorating health. When she heard of his passing, she sent me a wonderful message knowing right away how devastated I was. It really meant a lot to me, especially when many people place such little value in the pets that become our family members. I was crushed and she knew it right away.

It wasn't long before Dale and my husband were in cahoots to find me another furry family member. Four months after Winston died, Dale worked with my husband to bring home one of the lights in my life, Riley. She let him choose the pick of the litter and soon wanted to know all of the details of my reaction and how much I was enjoying him. To this day, he's like her little baby and she greets him with such joy every time we walk through the door.

If Dale were to lose her grooming business, I would personally be crushed. She has become a steady presence in our life and one of the few people I trust with my dogs. She's been there with us through the death of one and the birth of the other. Not everyone feels the way I do about his or her pets. Pets come in and out of others' lives, becoming more of a nuisance and just a presence after the cute puppy phase is done. For us, these are like our children. We love them, care for them, worry about them, and want the best for them. To luck into having a person like Dale caring for them as well means more than you can ever know. She is professional, a hard-worker, and most definitely knows what she's doing. With years and years of experience and with a giant heart, she is one of those rare finds that you know you've truly lucked into.

Sincerely,
Christina Edmonds
Highland, MD

FW: Dale's Dog Grooming

Robert & Patricia Rupp [rprupp@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 11:12 AM

To: CouncilMail

From: Robert & Patricia Rupp [mailto:rprupp@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:59 AM

To: 'Countycouncil@howardcountymd.gov'

Subject: Dale's Dog Grooming

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this missive is to attest to the professionalism and character of Mrs. Dale Martins. No one has solicited this response from us.

My wife and I have known Mrs. Martins since about 2000, being our exclusive dog groomer. She is excellent at what she does, not only giving personal attention to grooming but also giving much kindness and care for the animals that she is in contact with. She recently solved a problem with our dog that our veterinarian nor any other source was able to. We believe that she is a positive asset in her area, someone who would be the first to come to the aid of an ailing or injured animal.

Understanding there may be some concerns regarding her business operation, we have never observed problems with traffic, dogs barking/noise, confusion or distractions. The property is kept very neat and clean. We currently drive from Silver Spring to her locale, drop the dog off, return home and make a complete circuit again to pick the dog up several hours later. It is well worth the 60+ miles for the care and expertise we are accustomed to.

It is only because we care so very much that we ask the Council to give her every consideration.

Thank you,

Robert and Patricia Rupp
15316 Pine Orchard Drive
Unit 1K
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 822-4659

Request for Dale Martins, Owner of Dale's Grooming

Jodi Bennett [joad8@hotmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2016 6:00 PM

To: CouncilMail; DaleMartins722@gmail.com

January 2, 2016

Dear Members of the County Council:

I am writing on behalf of Dale Martins, owner of Dale's Pet Grooming, to request that she be granted permission to operate her business at 10688 Harding Road, Laurel, Maryland. I have been pleased to use her pet grooming services for over two years, and find that she operates her business very professionally. Her property and business are secluded along a quiet street, and do not interfere with neighbors or traffic. There is no noise from dogs that would bother others nearby- it is a very quiet environment separated with adequate fencing. She provides specialty grooming services that are not available for my dog elsewhere in the surrounding counties. Dale's Pet Grooming also grooms special needs dogs and those with geriatric issues. I would like to continue to support small business owners in the county and hope that you will grant her request to operate her grooming business.

Sincerely,

Jodi Bennett

8421 Winding Trail, Laurel, MD

joad8@hotmail.com

Tim Martins variance/ 10688 Harding Rd

jandeckert@mrisc.com

Sent: Friday, January 01, 2016 4:57 PM

To: CouncilMail

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the home based grooming business for which the Martin are seeking approval at 10688 Harding Rd, Laurel, MD 20723.

I am a 30 year resident of Howard County and have been a real estate broker with Long and Foster for 33 years. I know the influence that local businesses have on our county, and I have no doubt that the business that the Martins plan to operate will only contribute to the community in a positive way!

I am aware that the Martins' property at 10688 Harding Rd. is registered in the tax records as .999 acre. As a real estate professional, I know if the property were surveyed again, it could possibly be 1 acre or slightly more. Surveying is not an exact science!!! If the Martins' property were in the tax record as an acre, this hearing would not be necessary! Personally, this drawn out process appears to be an unfair "witch hunt" initiated by a disgruntled neighbor.

I believe the county should approve the in-home grooming business of the Martins for the following reasons:

- 1) The property is private and fenced in the rear
- 2) The business is quiet ad operated during the morning and early afternoon hours
- 3) The business meets the specific needs of older dogs and cats, many of which have special physical needs and cannot be groomed by larger operations such as Petco and Petsmart
- 4) Clients arrive at different times, and often the client stays with the pet. The traffic activity is no different than if the Martins were having friends over to visit their home.
- 5) There is no massive influx of traffic at anytime and there is no negative effect on Harding Rd traffic.
- 6) There is ample parking behind the Martins home which cannot not be seen from the road or neighboring properties.

In the zip code there have been several daycare businesses approved by special variances:

Good Beginnings at 10473 Gorman Rd, Laurel, MD 20723. This business is operated from a former personal residence on .69 acre. It is across from the Columbia Horse Center and handles a large number of cars as children are dropped off in the morning and picked up in he evening/ both peak traffic hours!

Karalot Daycare at 8258 Crest Rd, Laurel, MD 20723 was approved on a property with .41 acre.

I am also aware of several senior assisted care facilities which operate in the 20723 zip code.

The above childcare and senior care businesses all involve a greater impact on the community with traffic and other issues.

Please consider and approve, without further delay, the application to operate a grooming business being requested by the Martins.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Deckert
Broker Associate
Long and Foster Real Estate Inc.

Residence: 10533 Patuxent Ridge Way
Laurel, MD 20723
443-463-6005

Exemption for Dale Martins Grooming Shop

Schnauzer Rescue [schnauzer_rescue@yahoo.com]

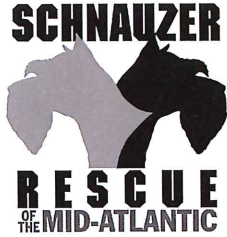
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 11:06 AM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: Dale Martins letter for Ho~1.doc (119 KB)

Attached please find a letter in support for the exemption for Dale Martin's grooming shop in Laurel, MD. Please notify me if the attachment does not come through.

Linda Seemann
Schnauzer Rescue of the Mid-Atlantic
P.O. Box 5034
Laurel, MD 20725
<http://www.schnauzerrescue.net/>
301-776-7370



**SCHNAUZER RESCUE OF THE
MID-ATLANTIC**
P.O. Box 5034
Laurel, MD 20725
301-776-7370 Phone/Fax
www.schnauzerrescue.net

December 31, 2015.

To County Council of Howard County,

This letter is in support for Dale Martins to be granted an exemption so she can operate her grooming shop at her property on 10688 Harding Rd, Laurel, MD 20723-1292. I understand that her property is short only a small amount of acreage of what is normally required to obtain the proper zoning to operate her grooming shop. We hope you can grant her the exemption she needs to continue her volunteer work.

I represent Schnauzer Rescue of the Mid-Atlantic, a nonprofit organization. Dale has volunteered with our rescue for around 10 years. She has always been willing to help groom the dirtiest, matted Schnauzers and turn them into beautiful dogs so they can be adopted. That is something that not everyone is willing to do. Groomers who operate store front businesses cannot help us the way Dale Martin does because they cannot afford to do that. But getting the dogs groomed and looking presentable is a vital part of what we do as a rescue to save and re-home these dogs and Dale Martins helps us achieve that. She has helped us save countless puppy mill dogs that would have died horrible deaths if we had not taken them and they are very smelly, dirty and matted Schnauzers when we get them into rescue. They are very scared and Dale is very knowledgeable about helping these scared dogs. There have never been any issues with her or her neighbors when we have been there. She is a good person who will work for the community to make it a better place and in both of our worlds, that means helping the dogs who need some help to get a better life. She is very knowledgeable about the breeds and she understands what it takes to get some of these dogs adopted. She has been very accommodating and she volunteers her time with our rescue, grooming even the most difficult Schnauzers that no one wants to do, many times on short notice since we often need to act quickly to save dogs. She has the patience to work with these dogs and can get the job done. No one wants to adopt a dirty, matted dog. They want a clean, nicely groomed dog.

We would not be able to save the dogs that we save if we didn't have Dale Martins help. Rescues for dogs that need to be groomed such as Schnauzers, are very dependent on a groomer to help make that happen. Dale Martins enables us to save many dogs that we would not be able to save. Please grant her the exemption she needs to operate her shop at 10688 Harding Rd, Laurel, MD 20723-1292. It will help the community as well as enable for her to continue doing what she loves to do in working with the dogs. It takes a very special person to do what she does on a daily basis.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 301-776-7370.

Sincerely,

Linda Seemann, President and Founder
Schnauzer Rescue of the Mid-Atlantic

Dale's Dog Grooming / Dale Hutton Martins

Donna C. Becker [donbc7@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 8:47 PM

To: CouncilMail

12/29/2015

To the Howard County Council:

I am writing to encourage you to allow Dale Hutton Martins to continue her grooming business, and to grant her the conditional use permit that she seeks.

Dale and I are not related, nor do we have any other ties, with the exception that I have been taking my two dogs to her to be groomed for the last couple of years. I live in Prince George's County.

All of my dogs have been rescue dogs. When we first adopted in 2003 (a 10-year-old Lhasa Apso, who has since passed away), we were fortunate to find a groomer that we liked.

Unfortunately that groomer moved out of the area, and is no longer available. We then had to look for another groomer, even going to big pet stores that had groomers. We were unable to find people who did quality work and were careful with the animals.

We now have two dogs, and until we found Dale, we were looking for someone who could groom them and do a quality job. We had a series of really bad experiences, including going to a well-known groomer who was so rough that we had to take one of our dogs to the vet afterwards.

Someone finally recommended Dale to us, and we have been thrilled with her work. She clearly loves dogs, and knows a lot about them. Her place is very clean, and she knows how to handle the dogs gently and professionally. There is ample secluded parking, well away from the road. She has taken steps to make sure the dogs cannot run away: the grooming is done indoors, of course, in a room at the back of her house, quite a distance from the road. The grooming space is enclosed, with a latched half-door. On the other side of the latched half-door, there is a small seating area, and a sturdy door leading outdoors that remains closed.

The area beyond that door is fenced, and the gate in that fence is closed and has a sign on it telling people to keep it closed. Beyond this is the parking area, which is accessible through a large electric gate.

When I have taken my dogs to her, sometimes there are other dogs but she knows how to handle them and they are quiet, plus, they are indoors, so I cannot imagine that her grooming business or the dogs are a nuisance to anyone. In fact, just driving down the road, if you did not know her grooming salon was there, you would not guess that it was.

Dale does excellent work and is usually available on short notice, since her business is a small private one.

I am sure you can appreciate that finding a good groomer, like finding a good mechanic, is not an easy thing to do. And once you find someone who does quality work for a reasonable price, you don't want to lose them.

Small businesses should be encouraged. They bring people, and revenue, to the County. Dale Hutton Martins, and her small dog grooming business, are a credit to Howard County.

I hope you will take this information into account, and grant her the conditional use permit.

Thank you.

Sincerely
Donna C. Becker
240-475-3000

Dale Martins private shop

Bille Kneaded [camshronkerry@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 4:12 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I would like to support Dale Martins request to allow her dog grooming in her incredible shop to be OK'd by your council and allow her to continue helping us out with our special needs terriers and older canines. Dale is the only person in a huge radius that has the talent to hand strip our show terriers and to keep our retired seniors looking like the breed they are. Preparation to present a terrier for the show ring is nearly a daily job and requires many years of practice before one is qualified to call themselves "Professional". Dales place is super clean and I only wish my sons vet clinic had a facility half as nice. Another inch? Can't you all allow such a tiny fraction to give her her permit? I travel 75 miles every month in order for her to tend to my 5 retired Lakelands. The closest terrier person who can do what she does is in Delaware! She also worked on them while they were being shown and helped us show them numerous times. Being a Terrier AKC judge for nearly 30 years I can appreciate her in the way her terriers always came in the ring looking like a million and happy. Such a talent. PLEASE give her the permit to continue. !! Thank you. Mrs. Billie Kneale, AKC judge of 30 years, breeder of Lakeland Terriers (rare breed), Kerry Blue Terriers and involved in Veterinary Medicine

Sent from my iPhone

Letter of support for Dale Martins grooming.

Brad Herzog [7xleaders@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 11:31 PM

To: CouncilMail

I have known Dale Martins for many years, and have had the pleasure of doing business with her as a grooming equipment repairman, and sharpener. She is well respected in the grooming industry. I have spent most of my life in grooming shops, and many of them have the reputation of being noisy, busy, industrial facilities that are not aesthetically pleasing. This is not the case with Dale's little shop. It is cute and anything but industrial. It is a nice place to be. I consider her shop to be ideally placed in the back of her property, and well maintained. She has sufficient parking so that visitors do not block the road. I realize that the zoned acreage is slightly less than appropriate size for a grooming shop, but considering the small size of her space, I believe it is a reasonable to support it as being zoned for a small grooming shop. I fully support her and believe her shop greatly improves the high standards of the community.

Thank you!
Brad Herzog

Sent from my iPhone

Dale Hutton Martins

Gmail [jrs610@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 10:20 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dale Martins is a wonderful resource for the care of our dog. She is not a typical groomer but more. As a friend she has a unique talent in grooming that gets our Wire Fox Terrier looking perfect for the breed, and for any competition. She is always there and goes above and beyond for our dog. She is an outstanding member of the dog show community.

Jim Siegle

Sent from my iPad

Dale Hutton Martins' Dog Grooming Business...

Lois Hensel [dancemom_1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 1:14 PM

To: CouncilMail

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I have been going to Dale Martins' for several years now. We were referred to her by the breeder of our two Norwich terriers. This breed is double-coated and requires hand stripping, rather than normal grooming, a technique which is not commonly done by commercial groomers. We travel over an hour from Centreville, VA every five weeks in order to have our two dogs stripped. Dale does a wonderful job providing this service. It is a tedious and physically demanding process, requiring anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 1/2 hours per dog to complete. If we couldn't come to her, it would be nearly impossible for us to find another groomer in the area who performs it.

It is our understanding that the main problem is the matter of her having her business on .999 of an acre, rather than a full acre, the county's legal requirement. Closing her business would be rather unfair in light of the fact that she is less than a percentage away from meeting this requirement. Please consider making an exception for her, as she provides a unique service for many owners and their pets. She is professional and a wonderful person, to boot. We would sorely miss our relationship with her and be sad to see her business closed.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Lois and Paul Hensel
14602 Farm Pond Court
Centreville, VA 20120
(703) 266-1033