

6
6-17-23

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Kelly Min <kelly.min@apree.health>
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2023 4:38 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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To the City Council of Alexandria,

I am writing to you in support of The Board Hound's approval of a "Special Use Permit". The Board Hound is an integral part of the canine owning community and without them, people (like me) who must travel for work, would find it very difficult. Not only do they provide a safe place for my pet to board, but they also provide me with peace of mind.

Additionally, their proximity in Alexandria provides more reasons for their clients to stay and grab a meal at the nearby restaurants on King Street and patronage the local businesses like the sandwich shop next door to their facility as well as the dry cleaner.

Please consider granting your approval for their Special Use Permit. It would be a benefit to all people, like me, who rely on their services to work and travel.

Sincerely,
~Kelly Min

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: theroths@skiff.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2023 8:43 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]The Board Hound - Special Use Permit

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue category

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We are residents of the City of Alexandria and patrons of The Board Hound. We support the approval of a special use permit to allow overnight boarding at the Old Town location of The Board Hound.

Leigh and Steve Roth

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Sharon Niemczyk <sniemo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 2:06 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; PlanComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment regarding The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

I would like to submit my approval of a Special Use Permit for The Board Hound. I am a resident and homeowner in Old Town and am a regular client of The Board Hound. The Board Hound is the chosen facility for my dog because they are a small facility and keep the dog playgroups to a small size as well. I also use their boarding services. When I looked at various facilities, I was horrified to find that some facilities had 70 plus dogs per room.

My dog cannot wait to get in the door at The Board Hound and doesn't want to leave.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Niemczyk
520 S Pitt St
Alexandria, VA 22314

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Eleanor O'Neil <eleanor.m.oneil@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2023 1:54 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment - June 17 hearing regarding The Board Hound's Special Use Permit application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello,

I would like to share a comment with the City Council ahead of the June 17 Public Hearing:

I strongly support approval of The Board Hound's Special Use Permit to allow overnight boarding at their facility at 133 South Peyton St.

I take my dog Gulliver to The Board Hound's Old Town facility for daycare on a weekly basis, and to their Shirlington facility for boarding when I am traveling out of town. I live within walking distance of their Old Town location and do not own a vehicle, so having easier access to boarding in addition to daycare would be wonderful. One of the main reasons I choose to live in this area of Alexandria is because the walkable access to community amenities and services, combined with public transportation, allows me to continue to live a car-free lifestyle. There is not currently another dog daycare or boarding facility in Old Town or within walking distance that offers the type of service that The Board Hound does, so I believe allowing them to expand the services they are able to offer would be valuable to the community.

My dog absolutely loves going to The Board Hound, and I am always confident they will take good care of him. Their business and care approach demonstrates a clear understanding of dog behavior and what is necessary to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for dogs, including responsibly limiting the dog-to-staff ratio and having 24-hour onsite staff for overnight boarding to ensure dogs are well-supervised. They provide individualized care that includes small group play time for dogs with compatible play styles, one-on-one mental enrichment activities, outdoor walks, and rest time. Their team is fantastic, and their facilities are always well-maintained. I could go on, but I hope this is enough to convey my confidence in The Board Hound and the quality of the services they offer.

Thank you,
Eleanor O'Neil

I don't know if the City Council needs this information, but just in case, here is my home address:
620 N Fayette St
Apt 223
Alexandria, VA 22314

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Kristin Vickery <kbvickery@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2023 5:09 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Special Use Permit #2023-00030

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in SUPPORT of the Special Use Permit #2023-00030, the request to allow The Board Hound (TBH) to offer overnight boarding services for its clients. We are current clients of TBH, having found them in the summer of 2020 after adopting our very young "pandemic puppy" Molly, who was in need of socialization during the Covid lockdown. The canine experts at TBH were terrific resources to us when Molly was a puppy, and we have greatly appreciated being able to send her to daycare there as our offices in Old Town began to reopen and call us back to work. We have utilized their overnight boarding services in Shirlington, and are strongly in favor of them offering overnight boarding in Old Town.

TBH staff are consummate professionals, and they are the only daycare and boarding service that we trust for Molly. Their top priority is the health and safety of their canine clients and their staff. They go to great lengths to maintain a clean, sanitized, and safe play environment for their dogs. "Playgroups" are always closely monitored by staff who have had significant training in canine behavior, and on outdoor excursions they utilize a 1-1 human to canine ratio and practice good canine citizen policies regarding picking up pet waste.

In such a dog-centered and dog-friendly community like Old Town, having TBH as a close-by option for a well-run and safe overnight boarding would be not just welcomed but embraced by dog owners like us. Due to the architecture of the space along with its primarily commercial location on Prince Street, the noise impact on residents would be minimal to non-existent, as would any potential parking impact, as human owners stay only a few short minutes when dropping off or picking up their dogs.

I urge the City Council to grant the special use permit to this wonderful local-and-women-owned small business, and allow TBH to offer overnight boarding to Alexandrians.

Thank you very much!

Kristin Vickery
Alexandria, VA
703-360-0046

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Arto Kovanen <arto.t.kovanen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2023 5:22 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Board Hound Status Review - City Council Hearing on June 17, 2023

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue category

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To Whom It May Concern:

This comment is for the City of Alexandria City Council Hearing concerning the review of the license of the Board Hound, to allow boarding at their Alexandria facility.

Myself and my family are long-term residents of the City of Alexandria.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to place our dog, now getting older, to the care of the Board Hound staff at Shirlington virtually since they opened the facility many years ago.

When we first needed to have a place for our dog, either for daycare or boarding, we spent a lot of time searching for a suitable facility for our dog who has separation anxiety. As members of the Commission probably know, there are many options available in the City of Alexandria. The cost was not a primary issue for us, and we believe that higher cost of daycare and/or boarding does not necessarily guarantee a better outcome.

We found that the Board Hound was different in its treatment of their guests (i.e., dogs), whether they were coming for daycare or boarding. In particular, during overnight stay, we value the fact that staff is at the location 24 hours and our dog could have a private suite to sleep overnight. During the day, staff provides dogs with various activities and care, which are great.

When we first begun to take our dog to the Board Hound at Shirlington, I asked the owner why she established the facility rather than placing her own dog into another facility in the City. She told me that after she had moved to the City of Alexandria, she could not find anything that met the quality standards that she expected to have for dog daycare and boarding. Hence, she established her own facility. This illustrates the quality standards she has in mind for these services, which we hope could be continued in the City of Alexandria facility.

Appreciation of their services really comes from our dog, which wags his tail blocks away from the Shirlington location when he realizes where we are heading, and eagerly jumps off the vehicle to go in and get into action there. On the way home from daycare or boarding, he is not anxious, dirty or exhausted, which is an assurance of the quality of care he receives at the Board Hound.

We truly appreciate that the Board Hound could continue providing quality overnight boarding services at its Alexandria location, now that the Shirlington location is closing. This would provide continuity for us and our dog, and for many other customers in a similar situation, who want to rest easy when they pets are in others care.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Regards,

Arto Kovanen
2908 Dartmouth Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Breanna Etter <better16@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2023 9:29 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; PlanComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for The Board Hound Special Use Permit to allow for overnight boarding at 133 South Peyton Street

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Morning,

Please let me know if my message has been directed to the correct contacts for this, and if not, who would be the appropriate contacts.

I am an Alexandria resident, homeowner, and registered voter. I am reaching out to voice support for the business The Board Hound and their special use permit request for 133 South Peyton Street. They are requesting to be able to expand services at their Peyton St facility to include over night boarding due to Arlington buying their current boarding facility. Approval of this request will be of benefit to residents and the city itself.

I currently utilize their Shirlington location for boarding services, and have had beyond excellent experiences there. My dog gets excited when he sees me packing up his bag to go and practically drags me through the door as soon as he arrives. The Board Hound is facility of high quality that is needed in our ever more dog friendly city.

An argument that we already have enough such offerings is not taking quality of services into account! I along with several neighbors had previously utilized another company's boarding facility right across Route 1 from our neighborhood, but all experienced several issues. All of our dogs experienced repeated Giardia infections, and my neighbor's Golden Retriever, who would make friends with anything, was so terrified by their last experience his owner couldn't even get him out of the car for his next visit due to severe shaking. Additionally, there was a massive outbreak there this winter due to lax vaccine standards. This not only posed a threat to patrons, but any other dogs in our community who came in contact with them afterwards. Another long time dog care business in the city recently had a dog in their care die after it escaped their facility and got hit by a car. A high quality facility is needed.

The Board Hound on the other hand has superior cleanliness and safety standards. They have a much higher staff to dog ratio which allows them to maintain immaculately clean facilities, high safety standards, and real, loving companionship for the dogs when their owners have to board them. I have utilized training at the Old Town Location and the boarding facility in Shirlington and have never had an issue. My dog always comes home happy and healthy!

This business has been a true asset to me for when I have had to travel for work and family obligations (and the ever needed occasional vacation).

The benefits to the city will be the clientele and additional tax revenue they bring into Alexandria. Their prices are not low (yet perfectly matched with the level of service they offer). This additional service will increase the tax revenue the city collects from this business. Also due to its location with several dog friendly restaurant patios nearby the customer

base transferred from the Shirlington location could help spur more business for its neighboring businesses.

I hope you take my comments into consideration and vote to approve the expansion of services at the Old Town location of The Board Hound!

Thank you,
Breanna Etter
1808 W Abingdon Dr, 101

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Sarah Bender <bendese3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 8:59 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: City Council Hearing Public Comment re: The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue category

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a current Alexandria City resident and very happy customer of The Board Hound's Old Town Alexandria location at 133 South Peyton Street. I fully support approval of their Special User Permit to begin overnight boarding accommodations at their Old Town Location.

The Board Hound's staff are incredibly caring and conscientious towards pets, their owners, and the community. They provide a safe, controlled, positive environment to socialize puppies and dogs to teach them safe play behavior and healthy manners, as well as coaching owners to maintain these good habits. I trust them wholeheartedly with my dog's welfare and know they will ensure their overnight boarding service integrates seamlessly with the nearby community.

Thank you,


Sarah Bender

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Rob Spalding <rob@subutaistrategy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 10:15 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue category

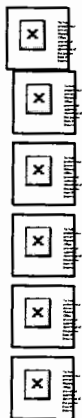
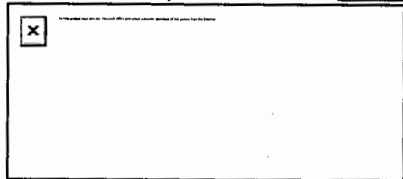
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Dear City Council,

I support the Board Hound Special Use Permit application.

Best,
Rob
CEO & Founder Subutai Strategy
+1 202 888 3063

For media requests contact info@generalspalding.com



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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: kadams3347@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 9:01 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]June 17 hearing

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Hello!

I support the approval of the Special Use Permit allowing The Board Hound to provide overnight boarding at its Old Town location.

Thank you!
Kristin Adams-Chevalier
Alexandria, VA

Sent from my iPhone

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: galit.gvily23@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 8:48 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; PlanComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL]The Board Hound - commission hearing on 6/6 and 6/17

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi!

My doggy and I love the The Board Hound family! They care for my dog and love him very much since he was 4 months old. He is almost 6 years old!

I board him almost every couple of months since the Coronavirus pandemic subsided. Before I was boarding him monthly to socialize with other dogs and ensure he was friendly to people and dogs.

I highly recommend and asking you kindly to the Board Hound owner the ability to board dogs in the Alexandria located on 133 South Peyton Street.

The Board Hound team is AWESOME! Looking forward to boarding my dog in Alexandria!!!

Have a great day!
Galit & Sydney Gvily
4951 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria

540-993-0911

"Have enough courage to trust ♡ one more time and always one more time" Maya Angelou

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Jimmy <wilmotjim@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 5:49 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support the approval of the special use permit request for the Board Hound to board dogs overnight in Old Town.

Jimmy Wilmot
5909 Jewell Ct
Alexandria VA 22312

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From: Eric Coulson <eric.coulson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 6:21 PM
To: PlanComm; CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Cc: The Board Hound Reservations; Karen Coulson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Special Use Permit of The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue category

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To the Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council -

This email is sent in support of the Special Use Permit application from The Board Hound to operate overnight dog boarding at their current daycare facility in the City of Alexandria. My wife and I are homeowners in the City of Alexandria at 213 Guthrie Ave, Alexandria, VA 22305. I am a retired US Foreign Service Officer and retired US Army Reserve Judge Advocate; my wife Karen, is a US Foreign Service Officer currently serving a hardship tour in Iraq.

We have known Meg and Jess since January 2015 and have entrusted them to care for our dogs since then. Our dogs, Angel and Cairo (now deceased), were both street rescues from Africa. Those dogs, while sweet, also came with challenges based on their tough starts in life. Meg, Jess, and the Board Hound Team never once shied away from working with them, or taking them into their care. Moreover they are flexible and customer (both human and canine) focused, understanding that both dogs and their caregivers in the National Capital Region can have very unique needs and circumstances. When we leave Angel with them we know she is in good hands until we are able to see her again. If you have ever been responsible for an animal companion, you understand what that peace of mind is like.

Arlington's loss will certainly be Alexandria's gain. The Board Hound is a safe, well run business that will add to the reputation of the Alexandria business community. It will also help those Alexandria citizens who have already come to rely on the Board Hound for their animal care needs. Failing to approve the Special Use Permit will not only deny an excellent business the opportunity to continue and grow, but it would be a disservice to the citizens of the City of Alexandria to continue to use an excellent and needed service. Without the Board Hound we will have a significant problem boarding our aging Egyptian street rescue. I urge the Planning Commission and the City Council to approve this Special Use Permit in favor of Meg Sappington & Jess Ward, the Board Hound, and all of their employees.

Eric Coulson | eric.coulson@gmail.com |
(he/him/his)
571-977-0424
909-610-9189
ericcoulson68 (Skype)


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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Jolie Masten <joliemasten22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 4:27 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - The Board Hound

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue category

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Hello,

I would like to submit a public comment in support of the special use permit for The Board Hound to offer overnight boarding in its Alexandria location. As a former Alexandria resident and current Arlington resident, it has been very difficult to find reputable, high quality boarding options for our dog. The Board Hound is the only dog boarding facility that we trust within the DMV area, and we plan to continue our business with them as long as boarding remains available.

Thank you,
Jolie Stroh Masten

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Laura Taylor <laurathenerd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 3:51 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; PlanComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for overnight accommodations at The Board Hound (133 South Peyton Street)

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Categories: Blue category

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Hello,

I would like to express my support for approval of overnight accommodations at The Board Hound in Old Town. I adopted a rescue puppy (Blueberry) this winter, and the first "formal" puppy activities/trainings were at The Board Hound. Their puppy parties show a great commitment to helping welcome new puppies into the community (see below for a picture of Blueberry at a puppy party, learning to interact with an adult dog!). We live in Rosemont and love being able to walk to The Board Hound for doggy daycare and training. My puppy is scared of many things (including the train overpass between Rosemont and Old Town!), but she is NOT scared of The Board Hound - she genuinely loves being there, and they take wonderful care of all of the dogs there. Having an overnight accommodation would be amazing - particularly for those quick one-night work trips. I would love to be able to keep my puppy close-by so I could easily pick her up when I return home. I've had dogs go to other boarding facilities before and the Board Hound is the cleanest and calmest that I've ever been to. As a homeowner, having a walkable boarding facility is a major benefit to living in the area, and I very much support having The Board Hound approved for overnight stays!

Best,
Laura Taylor
23 Mount Vernon Ave



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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: John Burley <johndburley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:58 PM
To: PlanComm; CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Board Hound Special Use Permit

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Blue category

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I am a resident of the City of Alexandria, and have been a customer of the Board Hound, both in Alexandria and Arlington, for a number of years. Because of the pending closure of the Arlington location because of Arlington County's purchase of their facility, I understand a request for a special use permit has been made with the City of Alexandria.

Consistent with the needs and considerations of residents in the vicinity of the Board Hound location on Peyton Street, I strongly support granting the Board Hound a special use permit that would allow overnight boarding of dogs at that location.

John Burley
2209 Ivor Lane
Alexandria, VA 22304

Sent from my iPhone

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