

3  
2-25-23

## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support Letter

Sending for the public record.

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**From:** Lacey Watkins <lacey.p.watkins1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 10:27 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support Letter

You don't often get email from [lacey.p.watkins1@gmail.com](mailto:lacey.p.watkins1@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms. Gaskins,

Since my husband and I moved to Alexandria, Barkhaus has been a staple in our lives. Barkhaus is our go-to when family and friends come to visit; they are always impressed with the business concept and welcoming atmosphere. We also enjoy the collaborative events that Barkhaus hosts with other local businesses as it gives us an opportunity to learn about and support other small businesses.

Within the last year, I have noticed some changes at Barkhaus. For starters, they close an hour earlier each day. Seating inside the dog park area has been reduced, which forces patrons to stand. The staff often asks dog owners to keep their dogs quiet when they bark. The latter change has resulted in negative business reviews for Barkhaus as it creates stress for dog owners.

It is my assumption that these changes have been made in an attempt to appease a certain neighbor. I have witnessed this particular neighbor display some disturbing and downright harassing behavior. On one occasion, he loudly whistled at patrons and shouted "THAT'S ENOUGH" from across the street. On another occasion, he approached the fence and began recording patrons on his phone. Both instances occurred before 8:00PM. It is clear that his intention is to intimidate and harass the patrons and employees of Barkhaus, which is not something that the Del Ray community stands for.

My husband and I purchased our first home on E Bellefonte Avenue recently, which is the street directly south of Barkhaus. Since moving to Bellefonte, I can hear sirens and loud vehicles along Richmond Highway, but I have never noticed any noise associated with Barkhaus. In fact, I often find myself questioning whether or not they are open as I approach on foot because I literally cannot hear any noise coming from the establishment.

It is a shame that this disgruntled neighbor refuses to appreciate the accommodations that Barkhaus owners have taken in response to his complaints. Unfortunately, the business

and numerous patrons are suffering due to one person's ongoing attempts to destroy this small business.

Barkhaus is a place that brings joy to all who visit. As a Del Ray resident, I am proud to have Barkhaus as part of our community! Please accept this letter as support for Barkhaus and its owners, Alex and Justin.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Respectfully,  
Lacey Watkins  
(615)785-6177  
208A E Bellefonte Ave.

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 9:35 AM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Letter of support for Barkhaus

Sending for the public record.

-----Original Message-----

From: Christy Poppy <christypoppy@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 11:12 PM  
To: Alyia Gaskins <alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov>; Kirk McPike <kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov>; John Chapman <john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov>; Sarah Bagley <sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov>; Canek Aguirre <Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov>; Amy Jackson <Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov>; Justin Wilson <justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Letter of support for Barkhaus

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from christypoppy@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter as a display of full support for the Alexandria business, Barkhaus. My significant other, and our dogs, and myself have been loyal members of the Barkhaus for two years, and want to share our sincerest appreciation for all the good Alex and his team have done for our local community. From building a safe place for our furry family members, to supporting the local economy, Barkhaus has been a true blessing to our Del Ray Village. They are constantly supporting local partners, while providing quality service and customer experiences. It brings deep feelings of frustration that the resident across the street continues to go out of his way to bully this company. We have been at Barkhaus on a number of occasions when the resident in question has been seen outside blowing high pitch whistles to instigate dog barking. This, sadly, seems to be just one of his many tactics to instigate issues. It's extremely disheartening to see a grown adult go to great lengths to bully this local business that continues to do good.

Alex and his team have enforced every rule that they were required to enforce. They have navigated every obstacle they have been thrown, with steadfast optimism and grace.

I'd also like to bring to attention how they thrived during the Pandemic, while many local establishments suffered. They brought a place of safety and normalcy during a difficult time. For dog parents, it was a place to have our fur babies run and play and not be in fear; a true breath of fresh air. The outdoor seating was one of the greatest additions that could have happened. We were extremely saddened to see this taken away. After a long work day, we thoroughly enjoyed taking a well deserved break and letting our dogs get much needed exercise. The reduced seating was an unnecessary change and we kindly ask you reconsider.

As I mentioned above, Alex and his team have been a welcomed addition to our Del Ray community. Continuing to punish Barkhaus because of one, Inherently unhappy individual is quite frankly unfair.

With deepest support of Barkhaus,  
Christy Poppy and Matt Robins, Ruby, and Nelson  
404 E Monroe Ave  
Apt 1

Alexandria, VA 22301

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alex Benbassat <aben1644@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 11:34 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Letter of support for Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from aben1644@vt.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Gloria,

Please submit this letter of support for the record for tomorrow's public hearing. This is a neighbor of barkhaus and the letter was sent to every member of City Council.

Thanks,  
Alex

--  
*Alexander Benbassat*  
Co-Owner

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Christy Poppy <christypoppy@gmail.com>  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 at 11:12:27 PM EST  
**To:** alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov, kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov, john.chapman@alexandriava.gov, sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov, canek.aguirre@alexandriava.gov, amy.jackson@alexandriava.gov, justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Barkhaus

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter as a display of full support for the Alexandria business, Barkhaus. My significant other, and our dogs, and myself have been loyal members of the Barkhaus for two years, and want to share our sincerest appreciation for all the good Alex and his team have done for our local community. From building a safe place for our furry family members, to supporting the local economy, Barkhaus has been a true blessing to our Del Ray Village. They are constantly supporting local partners, while providing quality service and customer experiences. It brings deep feelings of frustration that the resident across the street continues to go out of his way to bully this company. We have been at Barkhaus on a number of occasions when the resident in question has been seen outside blowing high pitch whistles to instigate dog barking. This, sadly, seems to be just one of his many tactics to instigate issues. It's extremely disheartening to see a grown adult go to great lengths to bully this local business that continues to do good.

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suffered. They brought a place of safety and normalcy during a difficult time. For dog parents, it was a place to have our fur babies run and play and not be in fear; a true breath of fresh air. The outdoor seating was one of the greatest additions that could have happened. We were extremely saddened to see this taken away. After a long work day, we thoroughly enjoyed taking a well deserved break and letting our dogs get much needed exercise. The reduced seating was an unnecessary change and we kindly ask you reconsider.

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With deepest support of Barkhaus,  
Christy Poppy and Matt Robins, Ruby, and Nelson  
404 E Monroe Ave  
Apt 1  
Alexandria, VA 22301

---

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 9:18 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Support for Barkhaus, from resident with disability

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sending for the public record.

Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Breanna Etter <[better16@gmail.com](mailto:better16@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 9:02 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Support for Barkhaus, from resident with disability

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [better16@gmail.com](mailto:better16@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am a North Old Town resident, home owner, registered voter, and an individual with a disability. This evening I write to you in support of the local business Barkhaus.

Having issues with mobility and chronic pain means that I cannot experience a lot of things many others take for granted in their everyday lives. For some time for me the idea of dog ownership seemed out of reach, as when I'm having a difficult day with my health I would not be able to properly exercise any dog I would get.

Public dog parks in the city are not all 100% accessible, they are unmonitored by a neutral party to remove aggressive dogs and/or their irresponsible owners, there is no verification of the dogs' vaccines, and they are not usually accessible (and pet friendly) restrooms nearby. The lack of these makes the majority of public dog parks in our city unusable to individuals with certain disabilities.

Barkhaus provides all those services, for a reasonable price. This makes this business an indispensable treasure to Alexandrians that are similarly situated. I know of two other individuals who bring their service dogs to Barkhaus for them to play and just be dogs for a bit in a facility that is safe for the dogs and their owners with disabilities alike. The

existence of this business, and the benefits it offers, so near my home was a deciding factor in me finally getting a dog. He has brought untold joy to my life and his presence lifts my spirits when I am having a bad health day.

For those that are lucky enough to be disability free, Barkhaus has become a cornerstone of the community for dog owners in our city. The location has had a score of businesses going in and out of business there since I bought my home here. Why would the city stop a thriving business that is providing real, tangible benefits to the community? They also actively give back to our community hosting regular adoption or other charity events.

They have made many accommodations to ensure they are not unduly interfering with the neighbors enjoyment of their homes. They close well before the city's noise ordinance goes into effect for evening hours unlike bars in our city with bands or DJs that far exceed the volume of noise coming from Barkhaus.

After other recent events in Del Ray where someone tried to poison their neighbors' dogs, we are hoping the city will be allocating more resources and support, not less, to responsible dog owners in the city. This is not only for residents' own benefit but helps to support robust tourism and real estate sales. This establishment is listed as the #1 Dog-Friendly Thing to do in Alexandria, on [17 Dog-Friendly Things to Do in Alexandria, VA \(visitalexandria.com\)](#). This business was the first of its kind in our region. Closing them or saddling them with undue restrictions will send the message that Alexandria is not the place for innovation and is not friendly to locally owned businesses.

Furthermore the restriction on their outdoor seating may impact my, and other individuals with mobility based disabilities from being able to take our dogs there as some of us require seating either the entire time or after a certain period of time. I hope the city reverses the removal of the 20 outdoor seats.

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my concerns. Please let me know if you have any questions about what I have shared above. I would be happy to expound upon my statements.

Thank you,  
Breanna Etter  
1808 W Abingdon Dr, 101  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 8:46 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sending for the public record.

Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Andrew Ertley <[ertleyac@gmail.com](mailto:ertleyac@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus support

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [ertleyac@gmail.com](mailto:ertleyac@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, and Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support of Barkhaus. I understand that some neighbors may plan to attend the next Council meeting to complain about noise. We live at 411A East Howell Ave—about a block from Barkhaus. We also frequently walk or drive past. I have never noticed any noise disruptions and certainly have not seen anything inconsistent with it's commercial zoning on US-1. I'm sure that any noise from patrons is drowned out by the frequent loud trucks and motorcycles. There are pros and cons of living right on a road that is busy from Maine to Key West, but it is where we picked to live based in part on the great local businesses.

In addition to being neighbors we are clients of Barkhaus. Our golden retriever puppy Blondie loves going to daycare and getting fresh air while playing with other pups. It's also a great place to grab a drink or food and meet other dog owners. The use is completely consistent with the commercial zoning and represents a family-friendly environment that aligns well with Del Ray's dog-friendly neighborhood. We are disappointed that they now have fewer outdoor tables. We have some at risk family members so we still try to eat outside when we can to avoid CoVID risk. I miss the more relaxed environment where we let restaurants seat a few more people outside to let everyone make safe choices.

I note that neighbors of the Barkhaus location have often expressed opinions on their preferred use. Several years ago a local restaurant was preparing to open a BBQ joint called "The Howlin' Pig". I personally loved the pun on our street name and looked forward to some smoked meat, but neighbors complained and called the name "an insult". One neighbor suggested that the best use would be a yarn store. Nothing against yarn stores—fibre space even drew a visit from the Vice President—but I tend to think that the property owner should decide how to use the property consistent with zoning requirements.

If the neighbors asked me (they haven't) if caution them to be careful what they wished for. I'm sure you are aware that a decade ago the owner of a successful outdoors store The Trophy Room sought permission to modernize a building constructed by a spice importer around 1800. Neighbors complained that extending the back of the building—visible only in the alley—would destroy the building's historic "flounder" shape. The owner, unable to keep his business in the current space, leased to a "couple's boutique". The outdoor merchandise became sex toys and lingerie-clad mannequins visible from the busy tourist street. The store now sells tobacco products. I express no opinion on outdoors stores, couples boutiques, or tobacco stores as appropriate uses, but would caution the neighbors of Barkhaus that there are worse things than a family-friendly dog bar.

Finally, I hope that a few malcontent neighbors won't be able to drive out a great addition to our neighborhood. Barkhaus is a great neighbor. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Thanks Andrew Ertley  
411A East Howell Ave  
Alexandria VA 22301  
202-215-1466

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 8:41 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Letter of Support for Business (Barkhaus)  
**Attachments:** Barkhaus letter of support\_02.24.23\_Gaskins.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Diana Weber <[diana.weber@gmail.com](mailto:diana.weber@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 7:50 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Letter of Support for Business (Barkhaus)

You don't often get email from [diana.weber@gmail.com](mailto:diana.weber@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilwoman Gaskins,  
Please find my letter of support attached for the City of Alexandria Council meeting Saturday February 25, 2023.

Kind regards,  
Diana Weber

--  
Diana S. Weber, Ph.D.  
AAAS S&T Policy Fellow 2015-2017  
AAAS Marine & Coastal Affinity Group, Founder & Co-Chair  
[diana.weber@gmail.com](mailto:diana.weber@gmail.com)  
+1 646 652 9428

"Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend."  
- Corey Ford

"Far and away the biggest threat to the ocean is ignorance. It's a lack of understanding that what we put in, what we take out matters - not just to the ocean, but matters to us."  
- Sylvia Earle

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. . . ."

- *Mae Jemison* (1st African American woman astronaut in space)

"Storytelling is powerful: It helps you to simplify complex narratives and humanize science"

- *Anastasia Koch* (Director/Co-Founder of Eh!woza a South African non-profit that trains young people in science communication)

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Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins  
City of Alexandria

Dear Councilwoman Gaskins:

I am writing this letter of support for Barkhaus Dog Bar located at the corner of Howell Avenue and Richmond Highway. Though Barkhaus is a private small business, I consider it to be one of the top five amenities available in the City. I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria since April 2019 and what is available in the community is very important to me. I have outlined below the benefits that Barkhaus, as a model business, brings to the City of Alexandria by its involvement with the community.

- **Safety**
  - This business gives residents an opportunity to spend time with their dogs in a safe contained environment.
  - I don't always feel safe walking my dog in my neighborhood. Barkhaus gives me a place to take my dog without the fear of being threatened.
  - Public dog parks are a nice idea but there is no monitoring of aggressive dogs or inattentive owners. Barkhaus requires owners to verify that their dogs are not aggressive and provide vaccination status. Barkhaus has people at all times monitoring the dogs' behavior. None of these benefits are available at a community dog park.
  
- **Small Business**
  - Barkhaus is a good business for the community and the City of Alexandria. It provides a service to the residents of Alexandria and to people outside of the community.
  - Barkhaus provides revenues for the City and though other businesses do this, Barkhaus does so as an aesthetically pleasing business and not as an "eyesore" or as a detriment to the neighborhood.
  - Barkhaus pulls in revenues from people who live in other areas. I have met a gentleman who comes daily from Springfield. I have also met numerous people who Uber to Barkhaus from D.C. and a large number who drive to Barkhaus from Arlington as there is no other similar business available.
  - Unlike many dog daycare facilities in the area, Barkhaus does not smell of urine. The facility is always clean and perfectly maintained, both inside and outside. This is a positive reflection for the City.
  
- **Sense of Community**
  - Barkhaus provides a place for people to relax and intermingle without the usual "bar issues." I have met numerous people who do not own dogs, but come to Barkhaus to play and pet other peoples' dogs.
  - Barkhaus creates a healthy atmosphere where pet owners can come and enjoy time with their pets in a social setting, which improves mental and physical health.

I hope you will take my letter of support in consideration during your City of Alexandria Council hearing.

Kind regards,

Dr. Diana Weber  
100 Luna Park Dr. #166  
Alexandria, VA 22305



## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 8:40 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Support for Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Sending for the public record.

Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Christine Broderick <[brodercm@gmail.com](mailto:brodercm@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 6:02 PM  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Support for Barkhaus

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [brodercm@gmail.com](mailto:brodercm@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, and Council Members -

I'm writing to express my support for Barkhaus, as a neighbor and customer. We live a block away and LOVE having Barkhaus in the neighborhood! We understand a couple neighbors have complained about noise - we have never had problems with noise from Barkhaus. Barkhaus has been a respectful, clean, fun and very welcome addition to the neighborhood, from my perspective, and the location on US 1 is perfectly appropriate for such a business. We love visiting the restaurant and taking our dog there for daycare.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration of this issue.

Christine Broderick  
411A E Howell Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301  
202-368-8870

P.S. Our 5-year old wanted to add his support - please see attached. :-)

stedy





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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alex Benbassat <aben1644@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 7:00 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Support for Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from aben1644@vt.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Gloria,

Please submit this letter of support for the record for tomorrow's public hearing. This is a neighbor right next door to barkhaus and the letter was sent to every member of City Council.

Thanks,  
Alex

--  
*Alexander Benbassat*  
Co-Owner  
Barkhaus  
[aben1644@vt.edu](mailto:aben1644@vt.edu) - (336) 214-4226  
[www.brewskisbarkhaus.com](http://www.brewskisbarkhaus.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Christine Broderick <[brodercm@gmail.com](mailto:brodercm@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Feb 24, 2023 at 6:02 PM  
**Subject:** Support for Barkhaus  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>, <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>, <[amy.jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:amy.jackson@alexandriava.gov)>, <[canek.aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:canek.aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>, <[john.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>, <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>, <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>

Dear Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, and Council Members -

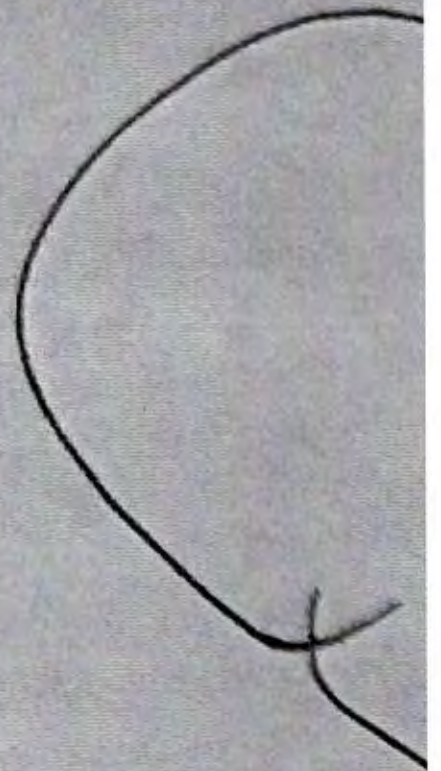
I'm writing to express my support for Barkhaus, as a neighbor and customer. We live a block away and LOVE having Barkhaus in the neighborhood! We understand a couple neighbors have complained about noise - we have never had problems with noise from Barkhaus. Barkhaus has been a respectful, clean, fun and very welcome addition to the neighborhood, from my perspective, and the location on US 1 is perfectly appropriate for such a business. We love visiting the restaurant and taking our dog there for daycare.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration of this issue.

Christine Broderick  
411A E Howell Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301  
202-368-8870

P.S. Our 5-year old wanted to add his support - please see attached. :-)

Steddy



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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Barkhaus <info@brewskisbarkhaus.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 6:59 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Barkhaus support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

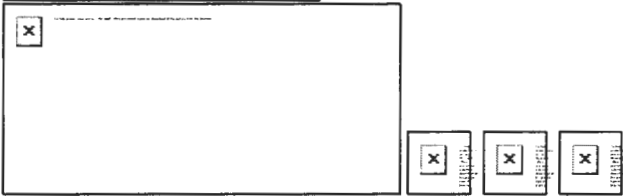
PREVIOUS You don't often get email from info@brewskisbarkhaus.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Gloria,

Please submit this letter of support for the record for tomorrow's public hearing. This is a neighbor right next door to barkhaus and the letter was sent to every member of City Council.

Thanks,  
Alex

--  
*Alexander Benbassat*  
Co-Owner  
Barkhaus  
[info@brewskisbarkhaus.com](mailto:info@brewskisbarkhaus.com) - (336) 214-4226  
[www.brewskisbarkhaus.com](http://www.brewskisbarkhaus.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Andrew Ertley <ertleyac@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Feb 24, 2023 at 5:16 PM  
**Subject:** Barkhaus support  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>, <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>, <[amy.jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:amy.jackson@alexandriava.gov)>, <[canek.aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:canek.aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>, <[john.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>, <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>, <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>

Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, and Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support of Barkhaus. I understand that some neighbors may plan to attend the next Council meeting to complain about noise. We live at 411A East Howell Ave—about a block from Barkhaus. We also frequently walk or drive past. I have never noticed any noise disruptions and certainly have not seen anything inconsistent with it's commercial zoning on US-1. I'm sure that any noise from patrons is drowned out by the frequent loud trucks and motorcycles. There are pros and cons of living right on a road that is busy from Maine to Key West, but it is where we picked to live based in part on the great local businesses.

In addition to being neighbors we are clients of Barkhaus. Our golden retriever puppy Blondie loves going to daycare and getting fresh air while playing with other pups. It's also a great place to grab a drink or food and meet other dog owners. The use is completely consistent with the commercial zoning and represents a family-friendly environment that aligns well with Del Ray's dog-friendly neighborhood. We are disappointed that they now have fewer outdoor tables. We have some at risk family members so we still try to eat outside when we can to avoid CoVID risk. I miss the more relaxed environment where we let restaurants seat a few more people outside to let everyone make safe choices.

I note that neighbors of the Barkhaus location have often expressed opinions on their preferred use. Several years ago a local restaurant was preparing to open a BBQ joint called "The Howlin' Pig". I personally loved the pun on our street name and looked forward to some smoked meat, but neighbors complained and called the name "an insult". One neighbor suggested that the best use would be a yarn store. Nothing against yarn stores—fibre space even drew a visit from the Vice President—but I tend to think that the property owner should decide how to use the property consistent with zoning requirements.

If the neighbors asked me (they haven't) if caution them to be careful what they wished for. I'm sure you are aware that a decade ago the owner of a successful outdoors store The Trophy Room sought permission to modernize a building constructed by a spice importer around 1800. Neighbors complained that extending the back of the building—visible only in the alley—would destroy the building's historic "flounder" shape. The owner, unable to keep his business in the current space, leased to a "couple's boutique". The outdoor merchandise became sex toys and lingerie-clad mannequins visible from the busy tourist street. The store now sells tobacco products. I express no opinion on outdoors stores, couples boutiques, or tobacco stores as appropriate uses, but would caution the neighbors of Barkhaus that there are worse things than a family-friendly dog bar.

Finally, I hope that a few malcontent neighbors won't be able to drive out a great addition to our neighborhood. Barkhaus is a great neighbor. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Thanks Andrew Ertley  
411A East Howell Ave  
Alexandria VA 22301  
202-215-1466

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Community Feedback on Barkhaus  
**Attachments:** Pablo BH.jpg; Pablo Barkhaus.jpg

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sending for the public record.

Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Wade Miller <[wadecmiller@gmail.com](mailto:wadecmiller@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:09 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Community Feedback on Barkhaus

You don't often get email from [wadecmiller@gmail.com](mailto:wadecmiller@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon Alyia,

I would like to provide a letter of support for Brewski's Barkhaus on E. Howell Ave. My wife and I are Alexandria residents and members at Barkhaus and have been taking our rescue dog there since the winter of 2020/2021. Barkhaus provided the perfect environment for us to be able to socialize our puppy with other dogs that we knew were up-to-date on their vaccinations in a controlled environment. I believe this is an important amenity for a community such as ours and is a positive for our neighborhood.

I appreciate that Barkhaus is a unique small business, which I believe is a great fit for the City's goal of supporting diverse and creative businesses. I'm glad you share in my belief that We need to support our businesses every step of the way, in every part of the City, from Old Town and Del-Ray to the West End. The City needs to adopt an entrepreneurial spirit that fosters innovation and supports businesses in experimenting with new ideas and models, during and after the pandemic. Our dog is a little over 2 now and still a ball of energy. We are not aware of anywhere else in NoVa that we would be able to play with him indoors during bad weather. I believe Barkhaus provides a great service to our community, is a positive for new residents deciding where to move in the area, and is an enterprise the City should be proud to support.

Thank you for your time,  
Wade Miller  
678-485-0541

P.S. Pictures of Pablo attached for your enjoyment

P.P.S. I am unsure how removing outdoor seating creates a safer environment or supports a small business.

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 5:01 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sending for the public record.  
Sincerely,  
Alyia Gaskins

Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: 703-244-3312  
Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: 703-447-3510  
tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov

---

**From:** Alexandra Dean <deanalex@gwmail.gwu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 3:08 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov>; Alyia Gaskins <alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov>; John Chapman <john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov>; Sarah Bagley <sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov>; Canek Aguirre <Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov>; Amy Jackson <Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov>; Justin Wilson <justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support

[You don't often get email from deanalex@gwmail.gwu.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Alexandria City Council,

My name is Alexandra Dean and I am an Alexandria resident. I am writing in support of Barkhaus, a local business that is incredibly unique and important to residents. This community goes above and beyond for our canine members and Barkhaus exudes that sentiment with their business. Barkhaus is a place where dog owners (and even just dog lovers) can congregate and form deep social connections on the basis of a common interest. It is incredibly important to me, as a resident of Alexandria and as a patron of Barkhaus, that this business remains as a gathering space for the community and as a place for our beloved dogs to gather as well.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Dean

401 Holland Ln, Apt 1504  
Alexandria, VA, 22314

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 5:00 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Maggie Allard <[maglard101@gmail.com](mailto:maglard101@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 2:49 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]In Support of Barkhaus

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [maglard101@gmail.com](mailto:maglard101@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Alexandria City Council,

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing in support of Barkhaus, which within the past several years has become a staple in my life and the lives of my friends - many of which I have met there, as they have created a space to build a welcoming and warm community.

Having lived in the area for the past 11 years, I've seen how our community has grown and become stronger over time. Establishments like Barkhaus are a major reason for that, and why I continue to reside here and even chose to purchase my first home in the city of Alexandria last year.

Beyond being a space where I know I can bring my dog safely due to all of the careful precautions, measures and diligent staff they have in place. it is a place where I can support local businesses. The way they have stepped up to highlight many other small business owners in our community is unmatched, in my opinion. Any day of the week, you can find a new organization or person that they have partnered with so that others can gain more visibility and succeed - whether it be local shops and pet stores having pop-up's or selling their gear, having paint nights with a local artist, training and exercise events with Canine Cardio or (and my personal favorite) all of the ways they highlight and donate to our local shelters ensuring other dogs will find a loving home. Through this, and under the strong leadership of Alex and Justin, they have become an integral part of our community's growth.

Barkaus is more than just a dog park, and more than just a restaurant. It's a place many people can go to spend time with their best friends - pups and people, alike - and be surrounded by staff that genuinely cares about their patrons. The people that make up Barkhaus have truly become friends to those of us that regularly visit and it's what makes it such a special space.

I ask that you continue to support Barkhaus, allowing it to thrive and support our community as it's done since it opened in 2020. I also ask that you consider reinstating how many seats they are allowed to have. A restriction such as this can impact their business and does nothing to help the community grow.

We all love Alexandria and want to see it remain one of the best places to live in the region, so please, continue to support this business and the community it has created.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maggie Allard  
3814 Jason Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22302

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus - More than a Dog Park, Letter of Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

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Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Leah Nolan <[leahnolan2016@gmail.com](mailto:leahnolan2016@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 2:33 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Cc:** aben1644 <[aben1644@vt.edu](mailto:aben1644@vt.edu)>; Brewski's Barkhaus <[info@brewskisbarkhaus.com](mailto:info@brewskisbarkhaus.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus - More than a Dog Park, Letter of Support

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [leahnolan2016@gmail.com](mailto:leahnolan2016@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Alexandria City Council Members,

As a local Alexandria resident, I write to you all today to express my full support for Barkhaus, our local dog park, daycare, restaurant, bar, and a safe space for all residents to enjoy an afternoon – whether you own a dog or not. It's more than a dog park and it's more than a restaurant. I moved to this area a few months before COVID impacted the world. A single woman, living alone, as many in the same position did, I adopted a dog during this time hoping for companionship. I moved here for work and suddenly was alone 24/7 with only my pup for company. My only solace was being able to socially distance at parks and enjoy the few outdoor options to bring my dog along off-leash. We were all cooped up to say the least.

I stumbled upon Barkhaus when looking for a local, perhaps walkable, dog park. Not only did I find a safe space, I found a community and great friends who shared the same sentiments. Honestly, I don't believe it is dramatic to say that for months one of the only bright spots was being able to take a long walk to Barkhaus and enjoy some sunshine, music, and getting out of the house for some in person conversation (that we all desperately needed)! I have been to some of the other local dog parks in the area, and what sets this business apart is its care and safety measures. Patrons who bring their dogs here are required to preregister and provide up to date proof of vaccinations. This is not the case in

other open area dog parks, or even dog friendly restaurants. Dog owner or not, when you visit Barkhaus you can be assured of a safe environment for all humans and pets! The employees truly care for their customers and pets and have even been known to bring their own dogs to come and play when they are not working.

Now, the Potomac Yard region of Alexandria has historically had a reputation of not always being the safest area. The innovative concept and business Barkhaus has brought, since its inception, has played a large part in revitalizing a once not so savory area. With any business there is bound to be some noise, however, just as the owners and staff treat their customers like friends and family, I have personally witnessed how considerate and respectful they are to the residents surrounding their location. The operating hours of the business are adjusted to care for the community and respect noise levels.

These dog park bar/restaurants are becoming more popular now, but when Alex and Justin created this business, it was truly a novel concept. They created this from the ground up, with continuous improvements to the customer experience. I cannot think of a better example of a local business providing to their customers as well as giving back to the area. It's businesses like these that encourage continued economic growth for our community. We should be supporting this incredible business by allowing their growth without undue restrictions. This business is an asset to our city and any perceived negative feedback is simply unfounded.

Three years later, and I truly owe it to the owners, staff, and customers of Barkhaus for making me fall in love with this city again. I, not only have met some life-long friends, I feel more connected and valued in the community. Like *Cheers*, it truly is a place where everybody knows your name, and you are always glad you came. Please continue to support this business and continue to look out for your community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Leah Nolan

1620 West Abingdon Drive

APT 202

Alexandria, VA 22314

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Katy Dunn Williams <[katymdunn@gmail.com](mailto:katymdunn@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 2:14 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus

You don't often get email from [katymdunn@gmail.com](mailto:katymdunn@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Gaskins,

I am writing to share my support for Barkhaus, as both a wonderful social spot and a great part of the community I have found in Alexandria.

I only moved to Alexandria last summer, having grown up in Maryland just across the river. I have been struck, despite my native Marylander's instinct to feel superior to all things VA, with the sense of community and generosity that the whole city seems to exude.

Barkhaus has been an important part of that welcome. Alex and Justin and their team have always made not only my dog but myself feel known, appreciated, and welcomed. The community of neighbors and friends I have made through our visits there have made my new life feel like home. The team shifts hours and options to serve the needs of its neighbors, it welcomes special events, and even recently started offering daytime doggie daycare. (Which has been a lifesaver for both my husband and myself more than once).

Thank you for taking the time to read this. And thank you for the work you continue to do on behalf of all of us.

best,  
Katy Williams

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Letter of Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

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**From:** Chelsea E. Dowling <[Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com](mailto:Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:56 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; sarah.bagkey@alexandriava.gov <[sarah.bagkey@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagkey@alexandriava.gov)>; canek.aguirre@alexandriava.com <[canek.aguirre@alexandriava.com](mailto:canek.aguirre@alexandriava.com)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chelsea E. Dowling <[Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com](mailto:Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Letter of Support

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [chelsea.dowling@wolfgreenfield.com](mailto:chelsea.dowling@wolfgreenfield.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi all,

I hope this email finds you and happy Friday! I write to you all in support of the small local business, Barkhaus. As a new member of this community, I cannot say enough good things about this business. I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts and brand new to the DMV area. I chose Alexandria based on the proximity to DC, but most importantly for the quality of my life and my dog's life.

I moved down here without knowing anyone and within my first weeks of living here, I found Barkhaus as a source of community. I can say confidently that without Barkhaus I'm not sure I would have been able to build the friendships that I now have. I feel lucky to have found a group of friends all thanks to Barkhaus.

Additionally, there is nothing like this in Boston or the entire state of Massachusetts. It's an innovative business should be able to thrive in a bustling dog friendly area like Alexandria. One of my favorite things about Alexandria is all the local businesses. In comparison, many small businesses in Boston have been priced out and cannot thrive like they do here. It would be a shame to lose a business like this or even restrain its operating capacity.

I've recently become aware of the neighborhood issues surrounding Barkhaus' existence and I'm extremely disappointed. The removal of the additional seating has impacted my attendance at Barkhaus and I'm sure impacting their business. It's unfortunate that there is an issue with the noise as the hours in my opinion seem to comply with ordinances in the area. Similarly, upon my departure this past week, I noticed a group of dogs across the street that were barking nonstop, I'm wondering if this also has to do with the noise complaints? It seems difficult to pinpoint exactly where the noise maybe coming from. It seems convenient for those complaining to use Barkhaus as a scapegoat.

I implore you all to take my experience into account as the greater community will benefit from such a spectacular and special business like this one.

Warm regards,  
Chelsea Dowling

1716 W Abingdon Dr, #303  
Alexandria, VA 22314



**Chelsea Dowling**

*Pronouns: she/her/hers*

[Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com](mailto:Chelsea.Dowling@WolfGreenfield.com)

O: 617.646.8310

C : 401.808.0288

**Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.**

BOSTON | NEW YORK | WASHINGTON DC

[wolfgreenfield.com](http://wolfgreenfield.com) **in** 

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: 703-244-3312  
Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: 703-447-3510  
tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov

---

**From:** Robert Sallberg <sallbergrobert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov>; Alyia Gaskins <alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov>; John Chapman <john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov>; Sarah Bagley <sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov>; Canek Aguirre <Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov>; Amy Jackson <Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov>; Justin Wilson <justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov>  
**Cc:** Barkhaus <info@brewskisbarkhaus.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sallbergrobert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Alexandria City Council,

I am writing to express my support for a local small business in our beloved Alexandria.

In recent statistics, Alexandria has been deemed one of the loneliest cities in the United States, running behind our neighbor Washington, DC. This then could lead to many residents (such as myself), to welcome a dog for support.

Speaking from experience, I am new to the area, where I knew no one. This was until I stumbled upon Barkhaus with my best friend Rosie (a gorgeous labrador retriever). We found a family here that welcomed us with open arms. Alex, Justin, and the Barkhaus team have such kind hearts and show genuine care for the dogs and their owners. Words cannot express how grateful I am for them.

They create an environment that is unlike any other in the city. If you think I am wrong, you can enlighten me in the future.

I will further stand by and continue my support for Barkhaus. If you would like to contact me, you can reach me at the address above.

Best,  
Robert Sallberg

---

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:57 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barhaus Alexandria

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Emily Abrams <[erabrams02@gmail.com](mailto:erabrams02@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barhaus Alexandria

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [erabrams02@gmail.com](mailto:erabrams02@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Emily Abrams and I am a resident of Arlington, VA. I rescued a puppy from a shelter 2 months ago and when I first got her, she was scared of everyone and everything. I have been bringing her to Barkhaus ever since, and she has learned so much from the Barkhaus community. It is truly a remarkable place, where dog owners can bring their dogs comfortably, knowing that the dogs are all healthy, vaccinated, and spayed/neutered, and that trained workers are there to watch, support, and love them. My dog has become a much stronger and more confident version of herself since I started bringing her...not to mention that she is the happiest I ever see her when we arrive! I drive from Southern Arlington to Barkhaus because I believe it is the best community in northern Virginia for people and their dogs, and it is a safe and welcoming one at that. The workers at Barkhaus now know me and my dog by name and I myself have met many people from regularly attending events at Barkhaus.

I heard about a pending case against Barkhaus and write to you in support of this amazing place and community-- it is beloved by so many members of the Northern Virginia community (not just Alexandria), and I hope to continue bringing my dog.

Thanks for listening,

Emily

---

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:57 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]letter of support for Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Maria Bethard <[mjbethard@icloud.com](mailto:mjbethard@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:21 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]letter of support for Barkhaus

You don't often get email from [mjbethard@icloud.com](mailto:mjbethard@icloud.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning,

My name is Maria Bethard and I live at 428 N Washington St. in Alexandria. My husband and I moved to Alexandria three years ago, and we brought Louie, our Labrador into our family at about the same time. It's tough in a city environment because dogs rely on daily walks primarily for exercise. Luckily, we have a few dog parks in our vicinity so we take Louie to those for some play time, but honestly, those can be hit-or-miss. You never know if there will be dogs for Louie to play with when we get there to get the socialization and exercise that he wants and needs on a daily basis.

We were excited when we found Barkhaus – for Louie and for us. From the first time that we went to Barkhaus we loved it, and now we are there at least 2 or 3 times a week. It's a great place where we can go with Louie, where he can play with his 'doggie friends', and we can go and relax with so many people that we have met over the last few years. Honestly, we have made more friends at Barkhaus since we've been in Alexandria than we've met anywhere else. It is a very relaxed, social environment because we all have a common bond.

Sometimes we spend just an hour or so and then go out for dinner, or we stay for a couple of hours while Louie plays, and we eat in the outside seating area, so we can keep an eye on Lou. The food is perfect for a casual night out – (their Flatbreads are amazing) and they have an ever-evolving selection of craft beers - and even a full menu for the dogs! (Barkables and Puppicanos are some of the favorites.)

Most recently, I have started taking Louie to daycare at Barkhaus, and he loves it. We tried another daycare facility, but it was extremely crowded, and the dogs were barking the entire time that he was there. It was not a great experience for him. In comparison, Louie loves going to daycare at Barkhaus because it's a familiar environment. Dennis, Alex, and Justin are very hands-on, and there isn't an overabundance of unruly, barking dogs. Every day when I bring him to the door his tail starts wagging like crazy. The dogs get a nice balance between outdoor playtime and indoor play/rest.

Barkhaus isn't just a great place to take your dog, meet up with your friends, and grab a bite to eat. It's also a place that gives back. Alex and Justin have hosted numerous adoption events since they've been open (even before they opened), events to benefit Animal Rescue organizations, Service and Therapy dog organizations, and so much more. They are committed to giving back to the local community in any way they can.

We are so fortunate – not only the patrons – but also Alexandria, the community, to have Barkhaus as an established business in our city.

Kind Regards,  
Maria Bethard

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus- Alexandria City Counsel  
**Attachments:** Screen Shot 2022-07-18 at 5.54.10 PM.png

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Kylie Olsen <[kylieraine413@gmail.com](mailto:kylieraine413@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:18 PM  
**Cc:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus- Alexandria City Counsel

You don't often get email from [kylieraine413@gmail.com](mailto:kylieraine413@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Alexandria City Counsel,

Barkhaus has been a haven for those who are new to the area looking for a safe place to meet people and spend time with their beloved dogs. I've been actively going to Barkhaus with my dogs for the past two years and have become close with both patrons and staff of this establishment. We've made lifelong friends and have been able to support each other through hills and valleys all from the initial meeting at Barkhaus. As a friend told me recently, "the environment and service of a space is what allows customers to be comfortable to create real, genuine connections. Barkhaus is that place for so many people in the DMV. The staff goes above and beyond to make sure all dogs are well cared for whether that is in their newest daycare program (which has been a huge blessing to people like myself who are from an office in DC) or its creating unique themed events that bring the community closer together.

Additionally this is a unique business. The only other dog park/ bar settings are well outside Alexandria. To lose such a unique Alexandria Experience would be a tragedy.

And of course, attached is a picture of my two dogs (Zero and Scraps) who have made Barkhaus their home.

Best regards,  
Kylie Raine Olsen  
(928) 499-9018  
[kylieraine413@gmail.com](mailto:kylieraine413@gmail.com)  
[KO Consultations Business](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton; Karl Moritz  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

Please note that Tracy Thompson is my aide. She can be contacted at:  
Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Lee Winslow <[leewinslow1@gmail.com](mailto:leewinslow1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus Support

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [leewinslow1@gmail.com](mailto:leewinslow1@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

I would like to voice my support of the business Barkhaus. The available facilities and businesses that cater to pet owners, myself included, is one of the many reasons I decided to purchase a home in the Del Ray area. I live in close proximity to the establishment (within a few houses), and it is my opinion that Barkhaus has only had a positive impact on my experience as a homeowner in the neighborhood. It is one of my favorite dining experiences due to its dog friendly areas. It would be extremely disappointing if Barkhaus's facilities and offerings were restricted now or in the future.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Leonard Winslow and Kirby 🐶  
506A East Howell Ave  
22301 Alexandria Va

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus as a Valuable Neighborhood Amenity

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

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Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Taylor Bezerra <[taylor.bezerra@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.bezerra@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Barkhaus as a Valuable Neighborhood Amenity

You don't often get email from [taylor.bezerra@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.bezerra@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon!

I am writing to you in support of Barkhaus as a valuable neighborhood amenity. My husband and I take our 2 dogs there, and love the community that it brings! We don't feel comfortable visiting City dog parks due to the lack of regulation, organization, and there being no rules regarding vaccinations, especially with the recent canine flu running rampant. We have 2 energetic young dogs, and love seeing them play with neighbor dogs (they get so excited seeing Barkhaus friends during walks!), and love meeting other like-minded people who live nearby.

We also appreciate the constant supervision by staff, making sure the dogs and people are safe, and keeping them as quiet as possible.

The removal of 20 additional outdoor seats seems unnecessary - there are many issues and nuisances in the city, and there is no way that Barkhaus ranks high among them. It's a fantastic addition to the community, keeps dogs and people safer than unregulated dog parks, and is beloved.

(Separate note, I'm obviously sending this to others, but I hope you're doing well! We did JLVN a few years ago together and it's been awesome seeing the work you've been doing in the community!)

Thank you!  
Taylor Bezerra

3815 Elbert Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22305

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## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]In Support of Barkhaus - Local Small Business

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

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Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Megan Jinks <[meganjinks18@gmail.com](mailto:meganjinks18@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>; Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chauncy Jinks <[cbjinks85@gmail.com](mailto:cbjinks85@gmail.com)>; [info@brewskisbarkhaus.com](mailto:info@brewskisbarkhaus.com) <[info@brewskisbarkhaus.com](mailto:info@brewskisbarkhaus.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]In Support of Barkhaus - Local Small Business

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [meganjinks18@gmail.com](mailto:meganjinks18@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To Alexandria City Councilors,

I am writing to you on behalf of the owners, Alex & Justin, of Alexandria local small business, Barkhaus.

This small business, its customers, employees, etc. are a staple in this city and deserve to be able to operate at full capacity.

It is my understanding that a neighbor seems to have an issue with the "noise" that comes from Barkhaus. Alexandria is a VERY dog friendly town, it prides itself on that and to diminish this business would go against that and what you and the citizens of this city have built.

The business does their best to make sure they are not causing any excessive noise, but at the end of the day - it is a dog park. Their neighbors - Your Dog's Best Friend is a doggy daycare, grooming, boarding facility and I have not heard of them getting any of these same complaints and harassment from neighbors. Also, there are several other dog parks

located in heavily populated areas, every other house in this city has a dog - that means barking. I feel as though Barkhuas is being targeted by this specific neighbor and it is extremely unfair and prejudiced.

To summarize - we fully support Alex, Justin, their employees and this small business and I hope that this issue can get resolved effectively and efficiently.

Please do not hesitate to reach out - we are happy to provide any other feedback and/or statements on their behalf.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration!

--

**Megan and Chauncey Jinks**

*owners of Badger and Mickey - members & regulars at Barkhaus*

219 Lynhaven Drive, Alexandria 22305

317-966-4462 // 317-450-8044

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:54 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Pledge of Support for Barkhaus

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

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Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Macon Field <[fieldms@gmail.com](mailto:fieldms@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 11:29 AM  
**To:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Cc:** Macon Field <[fieldms@gmail.com](mailto:fieldms@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Pledge of Support for Barkhaus

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Dear Alexandria City Council:

Hope this finds each of you well on this sunny Friday! It's days like today that I can't wait to head to Barkhaus for some sunshine with the pup later.

I write today to speak to the tremendous value that Barkhaus brings to Alexandria. When this small business came to the area, it brought a safe, friendly and relaxing space for residents to come together with their canine companions.

Moreover, the daycare program has saved me and provided a safe place for my dog on days I must go into the office.

The attention that Alex and Justin give to their operations and customers truly provides a sense of community and overall happiness. They have taken a dream of theirs and made it a reality. There is nothing like it in the DMV. And we should celebrate that as a city.

As a frequent visitor, I have never encountered any issues. The outdoor seating area is no different than a restaurant patio, and ample seating for the humans is equally as valuable for the experience of unwinding with fellow residents and their four-legged (sometimes three) children.

Please, I ask that you visit, experience it yourself, and protect this gem of a small business and community asset at all costs.

Thank you kindly,  
Macon

Macon Field  
225.921.0100

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## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Alyia Gaskins  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 4:54 PM  
**To:** Karl Moritz; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Letter of Support for Barkhaus

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Alyia Gaskins, Councilmember  
Alexandria City Council  
Cell: [703-244-3312](tel:703-244-3312)  
[Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)

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Cell: [703-447-3510](tel:703-447-3510)  
[tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tracy.thompson@alexandriava.gov)

---

**From:** Jason Holland <[jason.t.holland@gmail.com](mailto:jason.t.holland@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 9:27 AM  
**To:** Kirk McPike <[kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kirk.mcpike@alexandriava.gov)>; Alyia Gaskins <[alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Sarah Bagley <[sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Letter of Support for Barkhaus

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [jason.t.holland@gmail.com](mailto:jason.t.holland@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

Please find a previous email in support of Barkhaus being resent to all members of the Alexandria City Council.

Best,  
Jason Holland  
2011 Richmond Hwy Unit 102  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-409-2099

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jason Holland <[jason.t.holland@gmail.com](mailto:jason.t.holland@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 11:43 AM  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Barkhaus  
**To:** <[ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov)>

Hi Ann,

I hope this email finds you well. This message is in support of a local, family-friendly establishment nestled between Potomac Yard and Del Ray, Barkhaus.

We moved into the Potomac Yard neighborhood back in 2018; I can see the building which Barkhaus now occupies directly out of my windows facing Richmond Hwy. Upon moving in, that location was a vacant lot that formerly was operated by Flat Top Burger. Any deserted establishment can be considered an eye sore and negative reflection on the neighborhood and area around it, and that is only magnified by the amount of time it remains vacant. We long wondered what would take over and hoped it would be something that enhanced the community through whatever business model it subscribed to.

Since it opened its doors nearly two years ago, Barkhaus has been everything we hoped it would be (and certainly more). Virtually every time we visit or walk by, which is a frequent occurrence, Barkhaus is vibrant, warm, and welcoming. Patrons, often families, are smiling and interacting with friends, dogs are playing, and the staff is kind and respectful.

Particularly being a doggy daycare/dog-friendly restaurant, the noise is almost an afterthought to me. Dogs barking/playing and conversations/laughter are continually drowned out by road noise or emergency vehicles. I often hear the doggy daycare across the street, Your Dog's Best Friends (2000 Richmond Hwy), over the interactions at Barkhaus while I'm a patron. From my house across the street, I occasionally hear dogs from Your Dog's Best Friends at times of peak operation, namely the morning and evening rushes of patrons. I'm not sure that I've ever distinctly heard dogs or patrons from Barkhaus from my home.

In summary, Barkhaus is a gift to this neighborhood and community. The establishment is the furthest thing from a nuisance; the staff and general atmosphere of Barkhaus is often enough to brighten my mood after a hard day, or elevate it further on a good one. I happily support this business as a positive reflection of the culture in the City of Alexandria and hope to see them thriving for many years to come.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions if I can be of further assistance. Have a great rest of your day and a wonderful weekend.

Best,  
Jason Holland  
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