

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



February 3, 2009

Merchaw Senshaw
St. Urael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church
1335 Irving Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Re: BZA Application No. 17882 (5716 16th Street, N.W.) St. Urael Ethiopian
Orthodox Tewahdo Church

Dear Mr. Senshaw:

The Office of Zoning received your faxed letter (attached) on February 3, 2009, withdrawing the above-cited application. Please be advised that pursuant to subsection 3113.10 of the Zoning Regulations your application is hereby **WITHDRAWN**. No further action will be taken on this application.

If you have any questions, please call me on (202) 727-6311.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD S. NERO, JR.
Acting Director, Office of Zoning

Attachment

cc: Jennifer Steingasser, Office of Planning
Chairperson, ANC 4A
Ward Four, Councilmember Muriel Bowser

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17882
EXHIBIT NO.

TO: District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
FROM: Merchaw Senshaw Rep. for Saint Urael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church
DATE: February 3, 2009
SUBJECT: BZA Application 17882 - Special exception request of the St. Urael Church to establish services at 5716 16th Street, N.W.

We had an application of St. Urael Church for a **special exception to § 1553.2 of Title 11 DCMR** to permit a proposed church use within the Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay District for a property located on the west side of 16th Street, N.W., between Montague Street and Nicholson Street.

Although we have a great deal of help from DCRA, BZA, Office of Planning, and most importantly from the immediate neighbors of our Church, it is very difficult to worship and even too hard to have a peaceful mind and think God with the hateful and racist behavior and un cultured action of the so called 16 street heights civic association leadership namely David Wilson and Tim latzkin.

Mr. David Wilson was the very first person to accuse us not to run a church in that particular place. Then he took us to the civic association. All participants said yes, they can run the church as the same time they told us to do the formal paper work. We were on process to have that proper license.

Then he changes the avenue and start calling the DCRA and the district attorney office to stop us. On the other hand after he and Tim selected their racist friends at the civic association meeting, again David Wilson, the first accuser, also the vice president of the association, vows to deny our application for special exception. Then he himself took the case to the ANC where he is the vice president of it. He also called his racist friends including his friend Tim who is also the president of the civic association to testify against us. David Wilson, who is the vice chair of the ANC had chaired the hearing. It was not difficult to convince his friends to deny our application easy and they voted no.

We know all what they have done and what they are trying to do next unless someone stop them. That is why we are writing this note to the board.

Why I have to tell this to the Board?

1. This is how the people rights are taken away. A person who is the accuser is also the vice chair of the so called civic association and also the vice chair of the ANC.
2. The so called civic association is just a group of racist people who is decided in the name of the people. I have learned that most of the people who live in that neighborhood doesn't even know the association exist leave alone what these few individuals have been doing in the name of the association.
3. This will be a reminder for the Board to know what is going on in the so called 16 street heights. **Hope you will help others.**

Having known all this we said instead of fighting with this kind of ill mannered and racist people it was advisable to move our Church to another location and as such we here by withdraw our application.

Merchaw Senshaw

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OFFICE OF ZONING