

the CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
of the District of Columbia

February 20, 2010

Mr. Marc B. Loud, Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Re: Emory United Methodist Church, 6100-20 Georgia Ave. N.W., BZA # 17964

Dear Chairman Loud and Honorable Board Members,

It is with great regret that we learn the National Park Service and Emory Church were unable to come to a compromise on the issue of the church addition. While we applaud Emory's effort to bring affordable housing and commercial development to an area which needs both, we do not understand why this cannot be done while still respecting the area's rich history. The proposed addition to Emory Church will greatly affect Ft. Stevens. It has been repeatedly pointed out that the histories of Ft. Stevens, Emory Church and the surrounding Brightwood community are intertwined. It is the story of a great war, its aftermath and the part played by a resilient people – the people of Brightwood. Under the current plan, the visual degradation to Ft. Stevens will virtually destroy any hope of telling this story.

I need not remind the board that thousands of Civil War tourists are a potential market for commercial development in the area. We realize that the commitment of the National Park Service is crucial. It is up to all of us to hold them accountable for improving their stewardship of Ft. Stevens, to include visitor facilities. However, only you, the members of the board, can make the local decisions that will preserve the history of Ft. Stevens and Brightwood.

We thank you for your time and effort on this issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Claffey
For Susan Claffey
President
202-306-4988

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17964 Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. 63 CASE NO. 17964
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