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2011 JUL 18 PM 4: 21

Chris Otten
1830 Belmont Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009

July 18, 2011

SENT BY FACSIMILE
TO BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
Facsimile (202) 727-6072

Original letter sent on July 15, 2011
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
TO BZASUBMISSIONS@DC.GOV

Meredith Moldenhauer, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210 S
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: BZA Case #18240: Response to Applicant's Opposition to Neighboring Party Status:
PARTY STATUS REQUEST SUPPLEMENTAL; REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT**

Dear Chairperson Moldenhauer and Members of the Board:

I am writing to clarify and supplement my request for party status to represent many neighbors residing adjacent to the Mount Pleasant Library. I am attempting to expedite and streamline deliberations by having many neighbors, all of whom could qualify for party status on their own, fold in under one party and to help the Board hear basic issues -- issues contending with Zoning Regulations which are a bit different than those offered by the ANC -- in opposing the variance in a reasonable amount of time.

First, regarding timing, upon faxing in the form to seek party status, I believed I was doing so in a timely manner, counting the day of the facsimile and the hearing as 14 days. I would hope that this minor misunderstanding would not prevent the overwhelming desire of neighbors surrounding the library to see that they get a fair hearing about their concerns before this Board regarding this important project. They believe their lives, property, and quality of life is at stake and we feel they deserve to be heard.

Second, I am not a lawyer and certainly not fully versed in the entire procedures surrounding the Board of Zoning Adjustment hearings. However, I am a community advocate who has garnered the trust and respect of the neighbors who are being directly impacted by the Mount Pleasant Library project. They have pushed me to help them in this time of need for safety and quality of life with regard to the expansion and renovation of the library. They and I would hope we can air these concerns out as one unified party.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18240
EXHIBIT NO. 40

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.18240
EXHIBIT NO.40

I have earned this trust to represent these neighborly concerns as I have been to countless meetings with this community both as an organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition and as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner with ANC-1C.

I was indeed an impacted ANC Commissioner as the Mount Pleasant Library is the only public library serving the entire Ward. It is my library and thus the project affects me and all of my constituents as well as the entire Ward. My tenure as a Commissioner, between January 2009 and December 2010, provided a window into when the controversy of this library project essentially began through the issuance of the permit and up to the time we waited to be heard for the appeal in BZA Case #18151. So I have been heavily steeped in this project, and like the rest of the community, my ideas, suggestions and concerns have not meaningfully been addressed by the applicant in this case, DCPL -- which is why we are here today.

Further, I would ask for Mrs. Bray's unsupported accusations that this Board acted in error, allowing me to intervene with regard to BZA Appeal #18151, be disallowed from the record. In re-review of the transcript, it is clear that the case was simply mislabeled by Board staff, which created some confusion, all of which was remedied at the first hearing in January 2011. The Board took much time to deliberate my standing as an Intervenor and after much transparent discourse forthrightly ruled that I can indeed be counted as an Intervenor representing neighbors concerns based on the evidence supporting the case. This again holds true for this case.

Further, Mrs. Bray contends that I have been an opposing party for multiple variance requests by the applicant, DCPL. This is wholly untrue. In fact, I have been officially considered an Intervenor in only one case, BZA appeal #18151. I assisted an opposing party with the Washington Highlands variance, but was not considered a party in any of the cases Mrs. Bray purports that I was.

The Board should remind Mrs. Bray that her personal negative opinions, claiming that I was "misleading" regarding my fair attempt to make sure neighbors voices are heard, are incorrect mischaracterizations of the situation and her unsupported accusations stand in contradiction of D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct as found on the DC Bar website (DC Bar, 2/1/07, http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/ethics/legal_ethics/rules_of_professional_conduct/amended_rules/index.cfm).

CLARIFICATION AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF PARTY STATUS REQUEST

The attached affidavits and additional letters of authorization all meet the specific requirements of 11 DCMR Section 3106.

First with regard to the affidavits, now enclosed in their entirety, they each show the names, addresses, and impacts this project has specific to these neighbors. Also on the second page of each of these affidavits, Paragraphs 3, 4 or 5, show that these neighbors wanted to not only have their concerns brought to the BZA with regard to BZA Case #18151, but any BZA case, and in fact any proceeding before "DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts," and gives authorization for "Chris Otten [to express] these concerns ... as our civic partner."

In addition, more recently I have secured authorization from additional neighbors, both residents and businesses, with regard to BZA Case #18240. These residents heard more about this current BZA case through the recent ANC-1D special meeting which had just taken place on July 13, 2011.

Melissa Beauty Salon and The Mount Pleasant Pharmacy are both businesses within 200 feet from the library property and these owners stand to lose their businesses if a fire were to break out of control due to the library project limiting emergency official access to the cluster of unsprinklered buildings behind the library.

Additionally, Mr. Sidney Alvarado resides at 3151 Mount Pleasant Street, the building just behind the library. He noted his concern about a 45 foot high wall sitting just next to his apartment, less than twenty feet from his rear window, and he too has expressed his concerns about fire safety. His authorization of my seeking party status should be clear. This is also the case for 3151 Mt. Pleasant Street tenants, Collin Barth and Fisseha Zewdie, both of whom have their central apartment windows staring directly at the proposed library expansion.

Wrapping this all up is a letter of authorization by ANC Commissioner Angelia D. Scott, ANC-1D06. The Mount Pleasant Library sits within her Single Member District. She has kept her fingers on the pulse of this project and notes her support of my representation of her constituents to this Board -- constituents which include all of the aforementioned neighbors and their affidavits and letters of authorization.

All of these documents are included and follow 11 DCMR Section 3106 showing these neighbors' addresses and hence distances to the library, legal interests, and concerns about how this project will impact their lives.

REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CASE #18240

As more and more neighbors living around the Mount Pleasant Library get word of ANC-1D's position regarding BZA Case #18240 and the request for an area variance, more and more neighbors are seeking to be party to this case and thus more and more evidence of the detriment to public good is coming to light.

There has yet to be any order written by BZA staff with regard to BZA appeal #18151 by which the public can and should use to develop a case for this most recently requested variance. Otherwise, we get the sense that the City can operate in a "build-now, apologize-later" mode of construction.

It is clear that the applicant, DCPL is not in anyway behind any contrived building schedule and we believe they cannot prove this. In fact, despite the "at-risk" warnings given to them by the ANC and during BZA deliberations, DCPL continued to demolish, excavate, and then construct a large portion of their proposed rear expansion all the way to the rear property line.

It is unfair that the ANC and public is being compelled to contend with this variance issue before full disclosure about the appeal has been made by the BZA -- which directly relates to this instant case #18240. A postponement of no more than two weeks would hopefully allow for this BZA Order to be written, but more importantly will allow the broader dissemination of an opportunity for neighbors to present a unified case in this important matter.

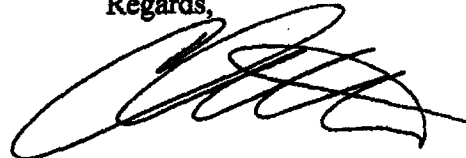
We recognize that this instant case requires that the Board review the merits of all the arguments with the perspective that nothing has been built yet, however, nothing can seemingly stop DCPL from building a structure which breaks with Zoning Code to date, and they still continue to build despite appeal #18151 being upheld back in June.

Conclusion

I respectfully submit these documents in request for party status in BZA Case #18240 to serve as a community advocate seeking remedy and compromise and to represent these Ward One neighbors who are directly impacted by this library project.

Further, we ask for a bit more time to pull together the full breath of community dissent to the proposal and to bring the full extent of the talent and experience and knowledge this community has to offer to the Board in this case.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Otten', with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Chris Otten

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that an electronic copy of the foregoing documentation has been emailed to the following persons on the 18th day of July 2011:

Kinley Bray, Attorney
1050 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036
bray.kinley@arentfox.com

Director of Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20004
mattew.jesick@dc.gov

Ginnie Cooper, Director of the DC Public Library
900 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20010
ginnie.cooper@dc.gov

Gregg Edwards, Chair of ANC-1D
g@ge1.org

July 14, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Variance Application No 18240. ; Mt. Pleasant Library

Dear Members of the Board:

We are residents located along the cluster of businesses and residential apartments located less than two-hundred feet adjacent and behind the Mount Pleasant Library.

Our neighbors along with others in this corridor have witnessed grave fires breaking out in this community over the past three years. Many of these buildings are historic and are not sprinklered. The fires have burned down two buildings within two-hundred feet of our business and the library. People have also been killed and burned badly. Because of this sad history here, our apartment has been put on alert that if a fire were to break out of control, it could consume a large swatch of buildings in this area, including ours.

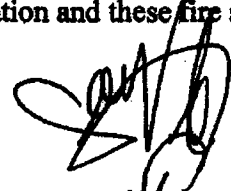
Further, we believe it is quite unfair that these residents light and air and quality of life will be affected by a giant 45 foot wall standing less than 20 feet from our buildings. We had a grand green vista and the sunroom of the historic library to view until this plan was foisted on our community with little to no meaningful consultation about this.

We would like to see a compromise plan which gives greater access to emergency officials from Lamont Street along the west side of the building to the rear of the building and greater space between the library and our apartments.

We, hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent us the proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and these fire safety and life safety concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Name:


Sidney Alvarado

Title:

Resident

Address:

3151 Mt. Pleasant St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20010
(202) 489-7514

July 14, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Variance Application No 18240. : Mt. Pleasant Library

Dear Members of the Board:

We are residents located along the cluster of businesses and residential apartments located less than two-hundred feet adjacent and behind the Mount Pleasant Library.

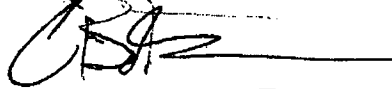
Our neighbors along with others in this corridor have witnessed grave fires breaking out in this community over the past three years. Many of these buildings are historic and are not sprinklered. The fires have burned down two buildings within two-hundred feet of our business and the library. People have also been killed and burned badly. Because of this sad history here, our apartment has been put on alert that if a fire were to break out of control, it could consume a large swatch of buildings in this area, including ours.

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We, hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent us the proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and these fire safety and life safety concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,



Name: Calvin Barth

Title: RESIDENT

Address: 3151 MT PLEASANT ST NW #305

WASHINGTON, DC 20010

9A 1260-4662

July 14, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Variance Application No 18240. : Mt. Pleasant Library

Dear Members of the Board:

We are residents located along the cluster of businesses and residential apartments located less than two-hundred feet adjacent and behind the Mount Pleasant Library.

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Further, we believe it is quite unfair that these residents light and air and quality of life will be affected by a giant 45 foot wall standing less than 20 feet from our buildings. We had a grand green vista and the sunroom of the historic library to view until this plan was foisted on our community with little to no meaningful consultation about this.

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We, hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent us the proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and these fire safety and life safety concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Address:

(Fischer Zewdie)

[Signature]

[Signature] (Tenant)

3151 Mt. Pleasant St. NW
Washington DC 20070
(202) 332-0818

St. J. Va #405

July 14, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Variance Application No 18240. ; Mt. Pleasant Library

Dear Members of the Board:

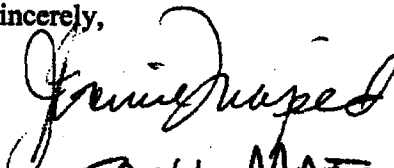
We are a business located along the cluster of businesses and residential apartments located less than two-hundred feet adjacent and behind the Mount Pleasant Library.

Our business along with others in this corridor have witnessed grave fires breaking out in this community over the past three years. Many of these buildings are historic and are not sprinklered. The fires have burned down two buildings within two-hundred feet of our business and the library. People have also been killed and burned badly. Because of this sad history here, our business has been put on alert that if a fire were to break out of control, it could consume a large swatch of buildings in this area, including ours.

Our business stands with other businesses and residents in the area in opposition to a complete green-light to allow DC Public Library to build an expansion and accessibility ramp which will impair fire safety access to this corridor rather than expand fire emergency access to us and our troubled neighbors. We would like to see a compromise plan which gives greater access to emergency officials from Lamont Street along the west side of the building to the rear of the building.

We, hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent us the proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and these fire safety and life safety concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,



Name: Tony Majeed

Title: Owner

Address: MT. PLEASANT PHARMACY

3169 MT. PLEASANT ST. N.W. WASH DC 20010
(202) 387-3100

July 14, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 2108
Washington, DC 20001



Re: BZA Variance Application No 18240 : Mt. Pleasant Library

Dear Members of the Board:

We are a business located along the cluster of businesses and residential apartments located less than two-hundred feet adjacent and behind the Mount Pleasant Library.

Our business along with others in this corridor have witnessed grave fires breaking out in this community over the past three years. Many of these buildings are historic and are not sprinklered. The fires have burned down two buildings within two-hundred feet of our business and the library. People have also been killed and burned badly. Because of this sad history here, our business has been put on alert that if a fire were to break out of control, it could consume a large swatch of buildings in this area, including ours.

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We, hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent us the proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and these fire safety and life safety concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilma Mayano

Name: Jose and Aracely Figueroa

Title: Owner

Address: 3171 Mount Pleasant NW

202. 232-6432-

July 13, 2011

Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Variance Application No. 18240, the Mt. Pleasant Library

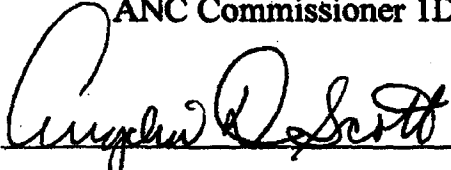
Dear Members of the Board:

As the ANC Commissioner representing Single Member District 1D-06, in which the Mount Pleasant Library sits, I hereby authorize Chris Otten to represent important concerns raised by constituents about this project and whom are residing in my Single Member District, the historic district that surrounds the Mount Pleasant Library.

His representation shall be in all proceedings before the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment concerning the above-referenced application and reflect the concerns raised in affidavits, among other community letters, submitted by my constituents living in the buildings adjacent to the library -- focusing on issues on how the proposed library plans impact light and air to neighbors and overcrowd this residential corridor, thus negatively impacting fire safety and emergency access to these residents.

Sincerely,

Angelia D. Scott
ANC Commissioner 1D-06

By: 

Name: Angelia D. Scott

Title: Commissioner ANC 1D-06

**Affidavit of Yasmin Romero-Castillo, President of the 3145
Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association**

My name is Yasmin Romero-Castillo. I am of legal age, and currently reside at

3354 MOUNT PLEASANT STREET #9 WPC 20010

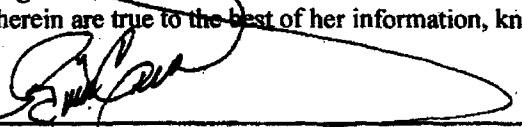
Affidavit Deed,

- DC Public Library have proposed plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW, Washington, DC.
- The proposed plans call for a three-story expansion off the back of the original library building, extending out all the way to the rear property lot line.
- The proposed expansion will block emergency access from Lamont Street to the rear of the library and adjacent Mount Pleasant apartment buildings and businesses.
- The proposed expansion will also block light and air and will reduce the quality of life for surrounding residents living in the apartments.
- There has been no meaningful analysis of how the proposed library expansion will affect the ability of emergency personnel in any emergency situation to rescue people and property of those in the surrounding area.
- Mount Pleasant Street burned to the ground in a five-alarm fire just three years ago. DCFD could not access the rear of our building very easily and in time. The fire spread from the back of our building and also destroyed the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church, which sat just behind 3145 Mount Pleasant Street.
- Most-recently there have been two additional fires (Fall and Winter 2010) that included loss of life and badly injuring several people, including children and destroying more property.
- This corridor is know to the DC Fire Department as a "trouble spot" in terms of the inability of emergency personnel to navigate easily and the lack of adequate hydrant service.
- Residents of the future 3145 Mount Pleasant Street believe the proposed library expansion plans heighten the problem of emergency access and fear for their property and lives and believe the plans risk the work of our association in establishing future affordable rental units where the Deauville Apartments once stood.

See attached exhibit for narrative of the concerns.

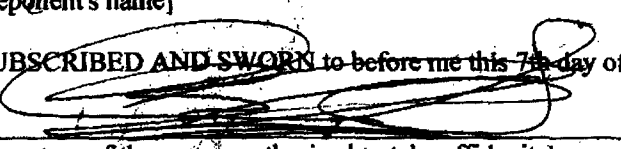
Washington, DC:

Yasmin Romero-Castillo, being first duly sworn on oath according to law, deposes and says that she has read the foregoing AFFIDAVIT OF the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association, by her subscribed, that the matters stated herein are true to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.


[deponent's signature]

YASMIN ROMERO - CASTILLO
[deponent's name]

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 7th day of January, 2011.


[signature of the person authorized to take affidavits]

Notary Public
[title of the person authorized to take affidavits]

My commission expires 12.01.2012

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association
Former Deauville Apartments
Future Monsignor Romero Apartments

The apartment building at 3145 Mount Pleasant Street was an original historic building before it burned to the ground in March of 2008.

Standing adjacent to other original apartments along Mount Pleasant Street and adjacent to the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church and less than two hundred feet from the original Carnegie library, our building boasted almost 100 units and was home to a diverse group of families, friends, and neighbors.

My name is Yasmin Romero-Castillo and I have been President of the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association for eight years.

This affidavit serves as notice of concern to be conveyed to DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts that the safety of future 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Apartments (Monsignor Romero) shall not be put at risk again by overcrowded development along this troubled residential and business corridor.

This affidavit also serves as notice that Chris Otten, local organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition, has been a helpful to the residents of the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street in working with us to demonstrate alerts to DC leadership about the concerns regarding this project. We appreciate his help as our civic partner.

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association must alert City leadership and the public to the fact that DC Public Library officials have proposed library expansion plans for the Mount Pleasant Library which will hinder emergency response time and access to the rear of our building and to those around us. This does not bode well for our future given what has happened in our past.

The Deauville Apartment building was totally destroyed in a five alarm fire in the late evening of March 12, 2008, displacing more than 200 people. Three years later only the burned shell remains – supported by an iron framing structure. Tragically, the multiple explosions and super-hot and rigorous fire jumped from our building to also destroy the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church. The cost of this devastation is in the many millions of dollars and the smoke from this tragic fire closed the Mount Pleasant Library for cleaning.

The Deauville Apartment building was totally destroyed in a five alarm fire in the late evening of March 13, 2008, displacing more than 200 people. Three years later only the burned shell remains – supported by an iron framing structure. Tragically, the multiple explosions and super-hot and rigorous fire jumped from our building to also destroy the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church. The cost of this devastation is in the many millions of dollars and the smoke from this tragic fire closed the Mount Pleasant Library for cleaning.



I won't soon forget that horrid evening. I was coming home from a local meeting and saw all of the lights and heard sirens. After realizing the building was on fire, my main focus was to help my tenants' escape and find a warm place to stay. We took the elderly and young to Haydee's restaurant. Other businesses opened up their doors to our frightened tenants – Don Juan's, the Mount Pleasant auto repair shop, and others. The Mayor and Councilmember helped our tenants find shelter at local hotels.

Since that dreadful March night in 2008, my role has been to keep the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street family somewhat connected and housed locally in anticipation of returning to our new building. After experiencing a fire of such rage, our tenants would like to see a library construction plan which expands services while simultaneously promoting emergency access to the rear of our building and of those around us.

We desire the chance to help our DC Fire Department readily get to people and buildings in distress with emergency equipment, including vehicles, more quickly and in a safer manner than what our brave emergency personnel will have to face if the library is built per the proposed plans.

The library stands at the apex, or gateway, to a residential and business corridor with tall buildings, many of them four-stories and taller. The sides and back of the library opens up into an area known by DCFD as a "trouble spot" for its difficulty in navigation, accessibility, and poor hydrant service.

For example, in November of 2010, a neighbor fell to his death, one other person died from serious burns, an entire family seriously burned with life-threatening injuries, and numerous residents injured in a fire in the building just behind ours named the Sarbin Towers, located at 3132 16th Street.

We have also been informed that on Christmas Day 2010, a fire occurred on the top floor of the Park Marconi, which is located just next to the library and less than 100 feet from our building. According to witnesses, DCFD had trouble finding adequate hydrant service increasing emergency response time.

Library expansion is needed and welcomed, and we commend the District of Columbia Library Board for its vision. However, we strongly believe and have continuously urged that the renovation and expansion be done responsibly.

The proposed construction plans call for adding an rear expansion that extends all the way to the rear lot line, plus constructing a massive and very long accessibility ramp on the Lamont Street side of the library. Both of these project components needlessly block a critical emergency access point to behind the library and adjacent apartments.



Library expansion is needed and welcomed, and we appreciate the District of Columbia's Library Board for its desire to grow Ward One Library services. However, we strongly regret the lack of collaboration with the community on this very important project. We have continuously urged that the renovation and expansion be done responsibly.

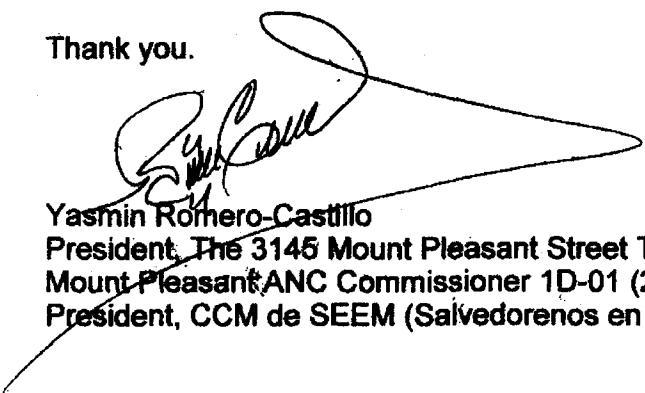
The fact of the matter is the proposed library construction plans endanger the lives of almost one-thousand residents who live along this troubled corridor, and most unfortunately directly risks the work between our association and the prominent National Housing Trust to bring back affordable housing to where the Deauville once stood.

Opening access up along this central Mount Pleasant residential and business corridor to emergency personnel must be made the priority over out-of-context internal library planning decisions.

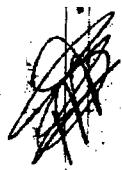
We are seeking help to rectify these plans as we want to prevent any additional senseless deaths, injuries, loss of homes and property from occurring because of the failure to act responsibly and now.

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants Association asks that City leadership seeks this project be stopped until a more reasonable plan can be deemed safe for our apartment, our neighbors, and Mount Pleasant.

Thank you.



Yasmin Romero-Castillo
President, The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association
Mount Pleasant ANC Commissioner 1D-01 (2011-2012)
President, CCM de SEEM (Salvadoreños en el Mundo)



Affidavit of Rosa Rivas-Garcia, ^{PRESIDENT OF} THE ADELANTE MOUNT PLEASANT COOPERATIVE

My name is Rosa Rivas-Garcia. I am legal age years old, and currently reside at

3149 Mount Pleasant St NW APT# 303

Affidavit Deed

- DC Public Library has proposed plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW, Washington, DC.
- The proposed plans call for a three-story expansion off the back of the original library building, extending out all the way to the rear property lot line.
- The proposed expansion will block emergency access from Lamont Street to the rear of the library to our apartment building which is directly adjacent to the library.
- The proposed expansion will result in a lifeless wall, 45 feet high, less than twenty feet from our building, blocking light and air and will reduce the quality of life for our residents.
- There has been no meaningful analysis of how the proposed library expansion will affect the ability of emergency personnel in any emergency situation to rescue people and property of our residents.
- There have been at least two major fires in the past two years along this residential corridor destroying two buildings and damaging a third, plus there was loss of life.
- This corridor is known to the DC Fire Department as a "trouble spot" in terms of the inability of emergency personnel to navigate easily and the lack of adequate hydrant service.
- Residents at 3149 Mount Pleasant Street were dismissed by library and permit officials when raising these concerns.
- Residents in our building and surrounding apartments want the proposed library plans changed to a construction plan that prioritizes safety first, as we believe the proposed library expansion heightens the problem of emergency access to our building and surrounding neighbors.

Washington, DC:

Rosa Rivas-Garcia, being first duly sworn on oath according to law, deposes and says that he/she has read the foregoing AFFIDAVIT OF Rosa Rivas-Garcia, Adelante Cooperative, by his/her subscribed, that the matters stated herein are true to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

Rosa Rivas-Garcia
[deponent's signature]

Rosa Rivas-Garcia
[deponent's name]

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of February, 2011.

[Signature]
[signature of the person authorized to take affidavits]

Notary public
[title of the person authorized to take affidavits]

My commission expires 12.01.2012

ADELANTE MOUNT PLEASANT COOPERATIVE
3149 Mount Pleasant Street, NW, Washington, DC 200010

February 7, 2011

The Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative made a decision at our special membership meeting, on Saturday, January 29, 2011, to join in appeal of a building permit for the Mount Pleasant Library renovation and expansion plans.

We understand the DC Public Library would like to renovate and expand their library building, all the way the rear property line of the library lot, which is adjacent to our apartment lot.

This affidavit serves as notice of concern to be conveyed to DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts that the Adelante Coop is being placed in unnecessary jeopardy.

This affidavit also serves as notice that Chris Otten, a local organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition, continues to be a partner with the residents of the Adelante Mount Pleasant Coop in expressing these concerns to DC leadership and we appreciate his help as our civic partner.

The proposed library plans show a forty-five foot wall less than twenty feet from our building. This will seriously block air and light which this building has had for more than seventy years.

More importantly, the expansion further limits emergency access to our building and those of our neighbors. There have been at least three fires requiring serious response in the past thirty-six months. This area is known as a "trouble spot" by DCFD as we have been witness to neighboring building burn to the ground resulting in millions of dollars of property destroyed by fire, and we have lost two neighbors with several others badly burned and healing.

One week ago, on February 1, 2011, we wanted to participate in the Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing BZA Appeal #18152, regarding the library. We were prevented from going because of a serious scare on that same day when residents noticed black smoke pouring into our building. The Fire Department was dispatched and came to investigate. The smoke was being created by all of the massive machinery, huge back-hoes and dump-trucks, excavating behind our apartment.

We have never received notice of a work plan for the demolition, excavation, and construction for this library. We understand this is a breach of DC regulations. The trucks are coming very close to our buildings without any protection provided in case of a mistake. The work trucks are emitting clouds of toxic air into our lungs.

This is not right. We do not believe DCPL discussed and negotiated plans with the community in good faith. The plans are flawed as they expose our community to greater risk in case of emergency. The plans will be a major nuisance that could result in loss of property and life and at the very least removes important air and light and quality of life for surrounding residents.

The Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative at 3149 Mount Pleasant Street, NW,
request that safety be made a priority instead of the arbitrary and
short-sighted expansion plans proposed by DCPL.

Regards,

Mrs. Rosa Rivas, President
Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative

Washington, District of Columbia
The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before
me this 8th day of February, 2011
by Rosa Rivas
Miriam E. Ochoa Notary Public
My commission expires 07-14-2015

MIRIAM E. OCHOA
NOTARY PUBLIC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
My Commission Expires July 14, 2015



Affidavit of Evelyn Brewster, President of the 3150 – 16th Street Residents' Association, Park Marconi

My name is Evelyn Brewster. I am of legal age, and currently reside at

3150-16th St. NW, WDC 20010 - Park Marconi

Affidavit Deed

- DC Public Library have proposed plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW, Washington, DC.
- The proposed plans call for a three-story expansion off the back of the original library building, extending out all the way to the rear property lot line.
- The proposed expansion will block emergency access from Lamont Street to the rear of the library and adjacent Mount Pleasant apartment buildings and businesses.
- The proposed expansion will also block light and air and will reduce the quality of life for surrounding residents living in the apartments.
- There has been no meaningful analysis of how the proposed library expansion will affect the ability of emergency personnel in any emergency situation to rescue people and property of those in the surrounding area.
- There have been at least two major fires in the past two years along this residential corridor destroying two buildings and damaging a third, plus there was loss of life.
- This corridor is known to the DC Fire Department as a "trouble spot" in terms of the inability of emergency personnel to navigate easily and the lack of adequate hydrant service.
- Residents of the Park Marconi believe the proposed library expansion plans heighten the problem of emergency access and fear for their property and lives.

See attached exhibit for narrative of the concerns.

Washington, DC:

Evelyn Brewster, being first duly sworn on oath according to law, deposes and says that she has read the foregoing AFFIDAVIT OF The 3150 – 16th Street Residents' Association, Park Marconi, by her subscribed, that the matters stated herein are true to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

[Signature]
[deponent's signature]

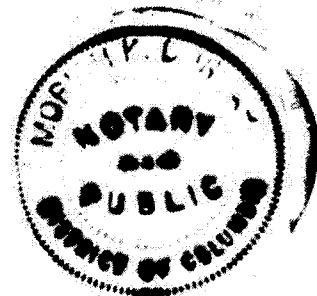
Evelyn Brewster
[deponent's name]

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 7th day of January, 2011.

[Signature]
[signature of the person authorized to take affidavits]

Customer Service Rep / Notary
[title of the person authorized to take affidavits]

My commission expires 1/14/15



THE 3150 - 16TH STREET RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION PARK MARCONI

The Park Marconi has stood in the heart of Mount Pleasant for 75 years and was designed by none other than the architect, Robert O. Scholz, who was known for his Art Deco buildings. Located at 3150 16th Street in Northwest Washington, DC the Park Marconi boasts a residency that has lived in the building for as long as 48 years to more recent residents, and neighbors who are multicultural, intergenerational and multi-lingual.

Standing between what was once the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church and the Carnegie-designed Mount Pleasant Library, this apartment building is home to me and my neighbors.

This affidavit serves as notice of concern to be conveyed to DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts that the Park Marconi is being placed in unnecessary jeopardy. Conveyance of this concern is evidenced by the many letters we, the residents, have sent over the past two years and the number of meetings we attended.

This affidavit also serves as notice that Chris Otten, an ANC Commissioner and local organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition, has been a partner with the residents of the Park Marconi in expressing these concerns to DC leadership and we appreciate his help as our civic partner.

We are deeply concerned because we live within five feet on the South of the now burned out and condemned Meridian Hill Baptist Church and within 10 feet on the West of the burned-out Deauville apartment building on Mount Pleasant Street. The Deauville was totally destroyed in a five alarm fire in March 2008, displacing more than 80 families. Leaping flames from this tragic fire also destroyed the Church. Only the burned shell remains - supported by an iron framing structure.

In November of 2010, a neighbor fell to his death, a mother died from serious burns, an entire family seriously burned with life-threatening injuries, and numerous residents injured in a fire in Sarbin Towers...just three doors away from our homes.

On Christmas Day 2010, a fire occurred on the top floor (5th) in our building, the Park Marconi. To our dismay, horror and deep concern, as we have forecast, the ladder truck was unable to make the turn to enter the curved access road in front of the building. Only the smaller truck was able to gain entrance. Adding to the Fire fighters dilemma and our fear was the

fact that none of the fire hydrants near the building or library were operational. Fire fighters were forced to close 16h Street between Park Road and Irving Street and run a hose from the smaller truck in front of our building across the national park and across 16th Street to a hydrant near the Department of Parks and Recreation building some 175 feet away.

We are thankful that no loss of life or property occurred at the Park Marconi. But, understandably with the number of fires, deaths, injuries, loss of homes and property along this fragile residential corridor, we continually express our concerns that that our area, aptly named by the DC Fire Department a "trouble spot" is a tragedy in-waiting. It is extremely difficult to navigate by emergency personnel. This is quite disconcerting to not only the residents of Park Marconi, but also to our more than 1,000 nearby neighbors.

We believe that these concerns are totally justifiable and meritorious. These life-threatening events make it necessary for us to continue to resist the plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library under its current design. Library expansion is needed and welcomed, and we commend the District of Columbia Library Board for its vision. However, we strongly believe and have continuously urged that the renovation and expansion be done responsibly. Unfortunately, our presence at meetings, letters and pleadings have fallen on deaf ears. The plans, in fact, further endanger those of us living near the library and along this dangerous corridor.

The plans call for an addition to the original library that will expand the building all the way to the rear property lot line. This will put the library less than 20 feet from residents living in two adjacent apartment buildings. The expansion further raises the building to a total of three stories, not including rooftop HVAC units. This will block light and air and ruin our quality of life.

Further, a long and high accessibility ramp on the Northwest side of the building will prevent emergency personal and equipment from being able to access the rear of the library and adjacent buildings. Reducing emergency access for this corridor simply is not prudent given the history of disaster on this corridor and endangers the lives of those living at the Park Marconi and surrounding apartments.

Residents in the Park Marconi and the two adjacent buildings on Mount Pleasant, as well as concerned neighbors have asked Fire Chief, Dennis Rubin, to help the community evaluate how best DCFD will navigate emergencies given the library plans. We heard from him twice. First in Spring 2009 when the plans were still in development stage and he said in a

public and recorded meeting, "the greater the distance between the buildings the safer things are for his fire personnel and to limit fires jumping across the building gaps." Chief Rubin was referring to the library's anticipation of bringing the addition less than 20 feet from surrounding buildings.

Then in Summer 2010 and with no changes to the size of the expansion, Chief Rubin said he gave an "eyeball" evaluation of the property and approved the proposed library plans. We felt betrayed and insulted that he provided no meaningful report with calculated data or figures as to what project components were actually evaluated and no analysis of how under the proposed plans, he and his staff would respond to fire and EM emergencies of the more than 1,000 affected residents. We believe the proposed plans will reduce emergency response time to this troubled area.

The proposed addition includes a massive wall attached to the rear of the current structure that will expand to less than 20 feet from our buildings and the buildings behind the library on Mount Pleasant Street. Not only does it encroach upon us, this proposed structure will block precious light and air and limit the quality of our lives. It further heightens any already frightening fire and emergency situation.

In summary, the proposed addition will indeed block an emergency access point from Lamont Street and forever forestall a chance to make this "trouble spot" a safer place to live. Given the last two years and three buildings that have witnessed devastating fires with loss of life and property we fear that the Park Marconi may be next to face these serious consequences.

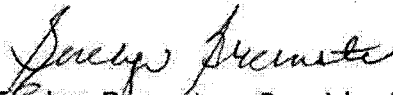
We are seeking help to rectify these plans, bring the plans into compliance with safety protocol, and prevent any additional senseless deaths, injuries, loss of homes and property from occurring because of the failure to act responsibly and now.

Plausible alternative plans have been offered to DCPL and their project managers have met with community leaders to discuss these alternative plans. But, again, DCPL moved ahead with its original plan - ignoring the residents, Fire Chief and EM Chief. Our Councilmember, Jim Graham held meetings to discuss alternatives solutions. But now insists that we move on from this issue. With all due respect to Mr. Graham, he does not live in this corridor and has not had to clothe, feed, and house neighbors who have been displaced. Nor, has he had to attend the funerals and visit the injured. Nor does he have the "founded" fears that we have when we hear the wail of a nearby fire truck or ambulance. And so, this issue of safety still and

continues to be an important matter to us because it directly affects our lives and homes.

The Park Marconi asks that City leadership seek a more reasonable expansion of the Mount Pleasant Library -- one which puts the safety of we, the residents as a priority.

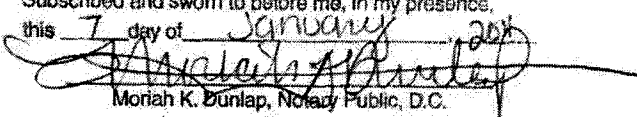
Thank you.


Evelyn Brewster, President
The 3150 16th Street Residents' Association

District of Columbia: SS

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence,

this 7 day of January, 2014


Moriah K. Dunlap, Notary Public, D.C.

My commission expires January 14, 2015.

