

Washington Ethical Society

a vibrant humanistic congregation that affirms the worth of every person

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April 2, 2013

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001
Room 220 South

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to add my support to BZA hearing #18355: a request, being primarily handled by Tracie Williams of Trusting Hands, LLC, to lower the age restriction on my congregation's zoning relief to operate a daycare. Her request, which asks that infants be allowed within the zoning relief (currently set at 1 ½ years to 5 years), would enable her to operate an infant-focused daycare in our building.

There is a significant need for infant care in this neighborhood; during our focus groups with neighbors over the years, we have repeatedly heard about this need. In addition, the rooms on the north side of the building, which Tracie will be using, are ideally suited for infant care. They are small, one includes a pediatric toilet and sink, and all have multiple doors which open onto both the hallway and the outside—making evacuation of cribs easy.

Trusting Hands will share our space with another daycare, Kids Village, LLC, which serves 1 ½ to 5 year olds (and is therefore covered under our current zoning relief order). Their co-habitation of our space will be most successful if Tracie is able to serve the younger, infant population. Indeed, between the two daycares they would be able to serve a family with differently aged children in one location, a major boon to working parents.

Tracie has already had a licensing specialist from OSSSI come out to look at the space, and the final word was that it was absolutely acceptable for infants.

Finally, the extension of age to include infants will have no effect on the impact of the daycare in the neighborhood. No additional children, staff, or parking spaces are required. The Neighborhood Agreement which is included with the zoning relief order will remain in effect. It is unlikely the extension of age would even be noticed by the neighborhood, except by grateful parents who can find care for their infant children!

Please let me know if I can provide any other information pursuant to this case.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Amanda Poppei
Senior Leader

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18335

EXHIBIT NO. 44

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