



December 10, 2012

Mr. Lloyd Jordan, Chairperson
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
One Judiciary Square
441 4th St., NW
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Jordan:

This letter is in reference to a draft resolution (Application No. 18471, ANC 2B03) before the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment. theatreWashington enthusiastically supports the application to allow Universalist National Memorial Church (UNMC) a use variance which will permit the operation of the non-profit Spooky Action Theater. This will permit the theatre to stage performances in its space at 1810 16th Street, NW in Washington, DC and to sell tickets to the public.

theatreWashington also supports this draft resolution which comes before the Board at a hearing on December 11, 2012.

theatreWashington serves as the unified voice for Washington theatre. We are dedicated solely to promoting, representing, and supporting all segments of Washington's professional theatre community — theatres, artists, company members, and audiences of all ages, as well as strengthening Washington theatre's powerful economic engine and world class brand. theatreWashington also presents the annual Helen Hayes Awards, recognizing excellence in Washington theatre.

Spooky Action Theater is an established professional theatre company in the Washington community. Their productions are regularly attended by Helen Hayes judges since 2005 and often include actors courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA) under Special Appearance contracts.

The subject of the variance application is the intimate venue the theatre has created. This space is one of the few in Washington that fills a need for affordable spaces to present fresh, innovative, and experimental theatrical work. Venues such as these only assist in expanding the theatre community in Washington by offering opportunities for performers, designers, and

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theatre artists alike to showcase their talent. In addition to the patrons of Spooky Action Theatre, the theatre has the support of local residents, which is evidenced by a resolution passed by ANC 2B.

Spooky Action Theater is in good company in contributing to the appeal of the Dupont Circle area as a destination for theatrical entertainment, dining, and nightlife. They are joined with other established theatres in the neighborhood – Constellation Theatre Company (at Source, 14th & T Street, NW), Keegan Theatre (at Church Street Theatre, 17th & Q Street, NW), Theater J (in the Washington DC Jewish Community Center, 16th & Q Street, NW) and Studio Theatre (14th & P Street, NW). Allowing Spooky Action Theater to continue operations at their current space will continue to attribute to this existing cultural vibrancy.

As an emerging theatre company Spooky Action Theater is a valuable asset to the cultural life of the District. As one of more than 80 professional theatres in the Washington metropolitan area, Spooky Action Theater is a vital part of establishing Washington as the second most prolific theatre city in the country.

theatreWashington is proud to support Spooky Action Theater in putting down roots at the Universalist National Memorial Church allowing them to continue to enrich the city with its theatrical productions.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (202) 337-4572 or llevy@theatrewashington.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Levy Grossman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda Levy Grossman
President and CEO
theatreWashington

Dear Spooky Action Theater:

I am writing to support you and The Universalist National Memorial Church in applying for a zoning variance to permit the theater to perform in the Church's downstairs auditorium at 1810 16th St NW, Washington DC.

I understand you and the Church have created a versatile space used for Church, community and performance events. I value the Church's commitment to the community, and I value the theater's commitment to the performing arts. You have my support for the zoning variance and for continued success in producing plays and performing in your present location.

Please feel free to present copies of this e-mail to ANC 2B and the Board of Zoning Adjustment as evidence of my support.

Signed: Donald B. White

Address: 3302 Glenway Drive, Kensington, MD 20895