

To: Board of Zoning Adjustment

Re: BZA #18599 – Trinity AME Zion Church Special Exception to Allow Parking Lot in R-5-B District

Board members:

Please add the following to the file for BZA #18599. What follows are a list of names, addresses, and comments from the July 20, 2013, community meeting held at Greater Tried Stone Church (1363 Otis Place, NW) at which this issue was discussed. Attendees were invited to comment on their position with the BZA application.

Following those sheets are emails/letters received by Commissioner Vickey Wright-Smith (1A02) with regards to the application.

Regards,

Kent Boese
Chair, ANC 1A

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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18599
EXHIBIT NO. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.18599
EXHIBIT NO.28

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate
Parking Lot (Reasons)

GLADYS DANIELS SMITH
7614 NEWBERG DR.
Lanham MD 20706

Nancy C. Jones
1311 Taylor St NE
Washington DC

I support parking. I've been
parking here ~~here~~ for many
Trinity has been home 40 years
Sunday 41 years

Sharon Robinson
904 Hamilton St N.E.
Wash, D.C 20011

I support parking. I have been
a member of Trinity for 55 years.
Native Washingtonian
Also need parking for
for elderly mom of 93 years
old.

Janice Alexander
1617-A Carnegie House Inn.
Silver Spring MD 20904

I Support.

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate
Parking Lot (Reasons)

Valerie Bloomfield - Support the church
2315 Altamont Pl. SE #105
Washington DC 20020

LILLIAN J. PERRY SUPPORT THE CHURCH
3636 16TH ST NW B364
WASH DC 20010

WILLIE J. PEARSON SUPPORT THE CHURCH
823 UNDERWOOD ST. NW.
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Glenda Hill - Support The Church
7702 Glenarben Pkwy
Lanham, MD 20706

C. Loretta Castilla - Trinity AMEZ Support
1343 Shepherd St., NW
Washington, DC 20011

Marilyn Greene - Support Trinity AMEZion
311 W Place SE
Washington DC 20020

Earlene Tolbert - Support Trinity AMEZion Church
2707-Sherman Ave N.W -
Washington DC 20001

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate
Parking Lot (Reasons)

Dr Lithol & Leggin
18 Underwood Pl N.E

Support.

Mildred E. Beck
635 Irving St, N.W.

Support
I'm an elderly person; need the
convenience of off-street parking.

Sherridan Powell
7816 VANITY FAIR DR
GREENBELT MD 20770

I drive in from MD
we need places to
park for our services!!
Support

William Lee,
Trinity from

Grace L. Callis
530 Oneida Pl. NW
WDC 20011

I support our parking
lots for members of Trinity
Amen and community.

BARBARA LERAC
3504 Center St NW
WDC 20010

Support w/changes

Evelina Hellebuxte
1436 Meridian P.L. N.W #301
WDC - 20010

I support, issue about
our neighborhood community
parking lot.

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate
Parking Lot (Reasons)

Nancy Coviello 1431
Meridian
PI NW

Nancy - I Support a conditional
permit renewal as long as
the church addresses safety
ISSUES: 1. Lighting - MORE

2. Fence structures
righted - repaired

3. Lots repaved with
parking spaces
demarked

4. Regular grass cutting
along the fence line,
weed + plant removal
from fence area

IF the lot issues are not
addressed then I do not
support permit renewal.

Sherrill Berger
3510 Center St. NW.
WDC 20008
Be it Be Resolved:
Trinity be granted one
year to comply with
the original conditions
and that BZA approve
the renewal subject to
certification by the
DC Dept. of Consumer
& Regulatory Affairs
that THC has ^{complied}
with all of the conditions
set forth in the original
documents.

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate
Parking Lot (Reasons)

NORMA L JONES 917 14 GRAHAM ST NW
DC 20011 SUPPORT TRINITY MEMBER
NEED PARKING FOR Church
FUNCTIONS

Beatrice LIGGINS I support Trinity Parking lot,
There is Residential parking for Residents
only I am a member of Trinity Church

Mildred L Hendricks
6936 Lamont Dr.
Laureham, Md 20706

I support Trinity Parking
as a Member from md.
It is needed for our members
and visitors,

J. LaVerne Martin
308-34th Place NE
Wash. D.C 20019

I support Trinity in operating
parking lot because it is necessary
for membership parking and other
activities. Residents do not want us
to park on streets.

Caro / YOSIN
7417 BLAIR RD NW
DC 20012

Tereguebode Goungou
2548 University Pl. NW
WDC 20009

Church members need to park
during worship service & other activities
for church - I have been a member of the
Center ST NW community for 12 years
and there was no problem with the church.

NAME
KODJO Etenda

Address
6107 Turnabout
Lane Columbia
MD 21044
Tel 301 661 3354

Support Trinity
member and available
~~available~~ To help the
The community
and need parking

Name

Address

Support or Oppose Church Continuing to Operate

Parking Lot (Reasons)

Elmora Roberts 7716 Hampshire Hwy T4
Green belt Md 20770

I support parking lot,
I am from another city
and Handicap and I
need an up close Park
on my church's parking
lot.

Laundrea Bears

Member of Trinity 9 M E 20th Church

Wanda Jonsson Trinity AME 20th
Church

Support parking lot

Trinity AMEZ Church Parking lot

FROM mhonablew@aol.com TO You + 1 More

[Hide Details](#)

From

- mhonablew@aol.com
-

To

- vawsesq@yahoo.com

CC

- maddieghee22@gmail.com

I am a member of Trinity AMEZ Church and realize the great need we have for our parking lot. When I first began attending Trinity, there was not enough space to park on the lot. I had to park on the street , where the residents of the neighborhood would remind me that I was parking in THEIR spaces. Often I would have to park on the Giant Food Store's parking lot – on the corner of 14th street (Before they moved)

When Trinity purchased the additional lots, i was able to park closer to the church -- whenever I could find a space. It was usually filled with neighbor hood cars, especially for during the week activities AND sometimes on Sunday. It again often became necessary to find a place to park on the street.

However, now there is a 'parking by permit only' restriction in the area around the church. The parking lot is very important to those of us attendig Trinity. i am a senior citizen, with diabetes, high blood pressure, vision problems and who walks with a cane. To me the parking lot is not a need, it is a necessity.

Mildred honablew

Email : mhonablew @aol.com

Sent with Verizon Mobile Email

From

- Psyche
-

To

- vawsesq@yahoo.com

CC

- Tyisha Maria Kirby

My name is Isabelle Kirby and I've been a member of Trinity AME Zion Church for 50 years. I've raised my family in this church. Since the lots inception I've been parking on the lot; as have my children and their children. At 86 years of age, if the parking lot is taken away, where do you suggest myself and other members park? Unlike other churches that may be able to double park on the main street, we don't have that option. My church members rely on this parking lot as much as I do.

I'm asking that we continue to have the privilege of parking on the lot.

If you need to reach me, feel free to call at 202-328-3239 or write at 904 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Sent on behalf of Isabelle Kirby by Psyche Kirby Lewis

July 17, 2013

Dear Commissioner Wright-Smith,

This letter is to express my support for Trinity AME Zion Church's parking lot. My family and I have been members of Trinity for decades. As a young girl, I remember the countless times my mom and I would drive an hour or more to Trinity only to find there were no spaces in or around the church- and drive right back home. It was a great relief when we then acquired the other lot.

What does the parking lot mean to me personally? It means that when I come to church, I can actually **go** to church. I do not have to circle around it 20 times trying to find a parking space, praying that someone will leave, only to finally give up and make my way back home. It means that my 90 year old grandfather and 85 year old grandmother can park that much closer to the church and therefore have less to walk. One reason I choose to park on the second lot is in order to reserve the closer lot for our elderly members, for which there are many. It means that I'm a little bit safer. As a now 28 year old woman that comes to church alone, I have been accosted on the streets surrounding Trinity more times than I care to count. Unfortunately, this has happened almost every single time I have had to park someplace other than the lot. It also means that the members of the many ministries dedicated to serving the community can come and do just that- serve the surrounding community.

To be fair, community concerns need to be addressed. From my personal experience, safety will be an issue regardless of who is controlling the parking lot. Each time I have been approached by questionable people on the streets surrounding Trinity, several neighbors have witnessed but not one has *ever* stepped in. Only other church members have ever come to my aid. The lot is monitored when church is in session and when there are church events. Otherwise, the church graciously allows the community to park on the lot freely. If safety is truly an issue, a solution could be to have the lot fully gated, then shut it down and only allow parking when the lot can be monitored. This, unfortunately, would cause an even greater nuisance to the surrounding community members. I think a much better idea would be for church leaders and community leaders to work together to create a plan that benefits both sides. Along with this, I understand that commuter parking is an issue. The fact is that neighbors are only majorly inconvenienced one day a week for only PART of the day. To be perfectly honest, most neighbors have not been inconvenienced *at all* as they have noticed that Trinity has not been enforcing towing and continue to park on the lot as they please. Trinity also gives ample notice when the lot will be needed for other events on other days, such as funerals, and again neighbors still park there with no consequence. It is important to note that parking on this lot for neighbors is and always has been FREE. Others in the community are spending hundreds of dollars MONTHLY to park in comparable lots and facilities. Finally, I would like to address the "unsanitary" conditions. Trinity regularly schedules church clean ups which include the inside and outside of the church. The lot is cleaned on a regular basis and the trash being collected is not being left by church members. Inspection of the initial application for the parking lot will show that community members are also supposed to help clean the lot, as they are also using the lot. While all of these community concerns are perfectly legitimate, they are also issues that

are not specific to this one parking lot but rather to the neighborhood as a whole. As such, it is unrealistic to think Trinity can solve these issues alone or that taking away the parking lot from Trinity will solve these problems.

When you are hearing from the community members who oppose the lot, I hope you are also hearing from the many community members who have been helped *because of* the lot. Maybe you will hear from the neighbors who regularly come to the church on Saturday mornings to purchase high quality, nutritious food at a SEVERELY discounted rate. They park in the lot as well as the many members that come to distribute the food. Maybe you will hear from the neighbor who asked the church if she could reserve the lot for her wedding reception. The church posted signs, cancelled meetings, rescheduled rehearsals, and altered other plans to accommodate her, and they did it GLADLY. Maybe you will even hear from the neighbor who parked their brand new car- temporary tags and all- on the lot just a few Sundays ago. This neighbor had their window down in the rain with their credit card sitting in plain view. A Trinity member monitored the car until the owner came, making sure the car and the credit card were both safe. I can assure you there are countless other stories like these.

As you sit and hear all of the reasons why Trinity should not be allowed to keep the lot, I hope all stakeholders are taking into account *all* of the effects of such a decision. It is clear that taking away the lot would not only have negative consequences on Trinity members, but on the community at large.

Sincerely,

Brittany Mackel

Trinity AME Zion Church Parking Lot

FROM Jean-Philippe Bordelais TO You

[Hide Details](#)

From

- [Jean-Philippe Bordelais](#)
-

To

- vawsesq@yahoo.com

Good afternoon Ms. Wright-Smith,

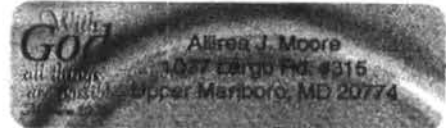
My name is JP and I am writing regarding the Trinity AME Zion Church's parking lot. I am one of the many who benefit from the Church's parking lot as parking in this area of the community has become very difficult due to lack of space.

This parking alternative solution has been, as far as I'm concerned, a godsend for those of us who benefit from it, and the Trinity AME Zion Church is to be commended for allowing community residents to park on its premises.

I will be out of town later this week and for the next few days and therefore will not be able to attend the July 20 meeting, but I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to use the Church's parking lot, and support for all the efforts toward preserving such an opportunity. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

JP Bordelais



Trinity A.M.E. Zion
Church

3505-16th St, NW
Wash, D.C. 20010
July 17, 2013.

Mrs Vickie A. Wright-Smith
Single Member District 1A02
1380 - Monroe St, NW #103

Washington, D.C. 20010-3452

Dear Mrs. Wright-Smith;

I greet you in the name of our Savior
Jesus the Christ. I am a member of Trinity A.M.E.
Zion Church, am writing to let you know
we need our third parking lot which we
purchased about 20 years ago. We allowed
the community to park without honoring our
request that they were suppose to remove
their cars on Saturday and Sunday so that
we could use it. I pray that the community
and us could work some agreement out.
We have been very kind in allowing the
community to park without towing their cars.
God Bless you.

yours In Christ,
Ms Allison Moore
Ms Sheila V. clay and
Ms Shanelle V. clay