

October 23, 2013

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW #200
Washington, DC 20001
bzassubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Case 18640 - 761 10th Street, SE

Members of the Board:

I apologize to the Board for not being able to attend the hearing regarding my application for a zoning adjustment approval as a job responsibility has required me to be out of the country on October 29.

In my absence, I request you accept this letter as my statement in support of my application.

I was born in Washington at the Columbia Hospital for Women and lived in Anacostia for the first three years of my life. When I returned to the area in December of 1990 to accept a position with the Congress, I purposely chose to live in the District versus Virginia or Maryland. I felt a connection to Washington and wanted to make the city my home. For 5 years, I rented an apartment, before saving enough money to buy my own home.

I chose Capitol Hill. Not just because of my job, but because I believed the neighborhood had a great future; and while growth would be inevitable, I knew the Hill would always retain the small town neighborhood feeling. I knew what type of house I wanted and patiently waited for two years until my realtor, Carol Howell, finally found it. I'll never forget her call to me from London.

A house was about to be listed, but before it was, she wanted me to see it as she knew this was the type of home I had always talked about. She arranged for her sister, also a realtor, to fly in to Washington to take me to see 761 Tenth Street.

As soon as I walked through the door, I knew this was going to be my home. The couple who owned it, Rabbi and Mrs. Geller, had purchased 761, 759 and 757 Tenth Street in a desire to create the home they'd retire to. They tore down the mechanic's garage at 757, building the two unit condominium now at the address. They used the proceeds to then convert 759 and 761 into a single unit. This was their dream house. But a sudden change of circumstances caused them to move to New Jersey. And I was the fortunate beneficiary.

From the moment I purchased the house in December of 1997, I knew what I wanted to do to continue the work the Geller's had started and to make the house my home. Many friends questioned why I would buy in the District, much less in a neighborhood which at the time was considered a bit outside of the safe zone. Their thought was the only logic to my purchase was as an investment. But that was never the case.

I spent the next fifteen years continuing in government service, putting money aside to one day be able to transform the notebooks I kept of ideas for the house into a reality. And when I finally felt I was in a position to proceed, I contacted Jennifer Fowler to help me navigate the process, depending on her

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reputation, skills and knowledge to design a home that would merit approval and contribute to my neighborhood.

The design reflects necessary upgrades as well as addresses shortcomings or different purposes from the Geller's original thoughts. It reflects 15 years of living in the home and my desire to making the home the place to which I will retire.

I could have chosen to sell the home, at a substantial profit, at many points in the past few years as the Hill grew into the fantastic area it's become. My accountant questions my sanity for continuing to live in the District when there are jurisdictions close by which would afford me better tax treatment. My friends wonder why I don't "cash out" and build a dream house somewhere that presents less obstacles.

The answer is that I love my home. I love my neighborhood. I'm choosing to continue to be a part of this wonderful, vibrant city by making an investment in my home. An investment that will, if the Board grants me approval, reflect 15 years of my commitment to the neighborhood, 15 years of a thoughtful design process and a desire to continue to call 761 Tenth Street SE, my home.

I sincerely request the Board grant my application its approval.

With respect,
Barry Jackson

Nero, Richard (DCOZ)

From: Jackson, Barry <BJackson@BHFS.com>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 9:01 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Jennifer Fowler (jennifer@fowler-architects.com)
Subject: Case 18640 - 761 10th Street, SE
Attachments: BZA letter.docx

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