

Nero, Richard (DCOZ)

From: Bardin, Sara (DCOZ)
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 10:09 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: FW: Application 18722

Sara Bardin
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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18722
EXHIBIT NO. 28

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Look out for the homeless this winter. When the actual or forecasted temperature or wind chill is 32°F or below, the District issues a Hypothermia Alert. To request support for DC residents who are homeless and on the street now, contact the Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252 or 311 or email uposh@upo.org

-----Original Message-----

From: betty [mailto:edmistonb@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 4:02 PM
To: ATD DCOZ
Subject: Application 18722

Dear Sirs and Madams,

This email is submitted in response to your notice dated 1-10-14, regarding application 18722 for a use variance for the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company located at 1742 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The rear of a property I own at 1735 P Street, N.W. is kitty-corner across an alley from the rear of the Theatre's property with approximately 20 feet between us. While I believe the aforementioned distance qualifies me as a potential interested party in that my interests could be distinctly affected by the proposed zoning action, I have not formally requested a designation, nor do I choose to appear as a witness at the March 11th hearing. I do however have views about the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company and this variance application which I would like to share with the Board of Zoning Adjustment. It is my hope that the email comments included herein will be shared with all Board members and included in the formal record of the application.

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I believe for perhaps as long as four decades the building in the application has operated as a small theater and for approximately 35 years I have lived within a one block radius of the Theater in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Distinctly unique, our neighborhood has long been renowned for its diversity, arts scene, and historic buildings. I am very much interested in preserving my neighborhood as a home to the arts. During the time of my residency, I have seen many changes to the Dupont Circle neighborhood, most of which have been very positive. I, along with many other Dupont Circle residents, considered the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company's purchase of 1742 Church Street as an extremely positive action. We believe it guaranteed that a performing arts venue would remain in the 17th street corridor rather than perhaps locate further to the east to another less expensive neighborhood, as we have seen so many restaurants and small businesses do in very recent years. Additionally, many of us could not be more pleased that the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company specifically purchased the building. On almost a daily basis I encounter some of the Theatre staff, actors, and technicians, all of which are extremely kind, helpful and sensitive to their neighbors. Normally theater performances are planned for Thursday thru Sunday and even when sitting on my deck across the alley from the theater, I cannot hear a set being constructed or a performance underway. In fact, I cannot think of a single time in which Theatre operations disturbed me in any way. To the contrary, I can cite several instances in which Theater personnel were very helpful and generous in their time to assist neighbors.

I highly support the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company and their variance request. They are so beloved in our neighborhood that last fall neighbors on Church Street held a block-long yard sale with proceeds donated to the Theatre. And finally whether recognized by all or not, the activities of the Theatre increase the safety of all of us on the block. On a very small, rather dark, street in the heart of the city, the Theatre personnel and patrons help keep crime at bay by their very presence.

Thank you so very much for allowing me to provide my comments on behalf of this application. Should you have any questions, need additional information or proof of my property ownership, please email me at the address below and I'll be happy to comply with your request.

Betty Edmiston
edmistonb@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPad