

April 18, 2014

Board Of Zoning Appeals

Re: BZA No 18722
Andrew Keegan Theatre Company

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to urge you to provide a variance for the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company, to provide them with a Certificate of Occupancy and allow them to renovate their theater facility on Church Street. This renovation includes provision for more community and classroom space, which we are confident they will use well.

The Andrew Keegan Theatre Company has done wonderful work through outreach programs with the youth group at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington. This partnership with our youth goes back more than 15 years. For several of those years, one of us was part of the production team working directly with Keegan personnel on the plays for our youth group. More importantly, both of our children participated in these productions. We can assure you that working with Keegan changes lives.

Mt. Olivet's youth group has a long-standing tradition of performing plays to raise money for their mission outreach efforts. This mission work involves building and repairing homes for needy individuals through Habitat for Humanity, the Jeremiah Project, and other organizations. Without the hundreds of thousands of dollars raised through our partnership with Keegan Theatre, these trips for large numbers of youth, and the home building and repair that they donated to needy families, would not have been possible.

In addition to making the service trips possible, working with Keegan Theatre on a high-quality acting experience was a formative experience for the youth of our church. Receiving professional direction was an enormous confidence-boosting experience. The students learned a tremendous number of performance skills and technical skills. They absorbed all of the personal life-long benefits that stem from being able to present oneself well in public settings, as well as confidence in their ability to tackle challenging jobs. They learned the value of teamwork, as it was necessary that every single one of them pull together and fulfill their responsibilities to the production in order for the play to be a success. They learned that every production member was valued and necessary, from the stage hands to the ushers to the stars of the show, which is a very important life lesson. Theater skills have broad application for living a positive and productive life, and the Keegan personnel who worked with our youth over the years gave them that gift.

The Keegan people who gave of their time and expertise were fabulous role models for our youth. Many Keegan-associated individuals participated in this endeavor.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18722

EXHIBIT NO. 44

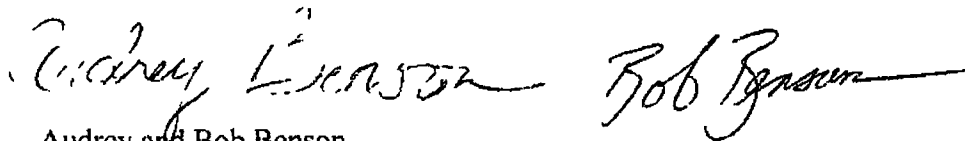
Board of Zoning Adjustment
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with our youth over the years, and every single one of them has had a positive influence. Those familiar with teen-age development know the importance of teenagers having connections with solid, responsible adults outside of their families. Time and time again, we could see through our son, daughter, and other youth, the development of mutual respect and friendship with Keegan's actors. They made fantastic teachers and mentors, and we will never be able to thank them enough for their work with our children.

In this letter, you now have just one snapshot of how the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company has had a positive and life-long impact on youth in the community, through the company's dedication to community outreach. We urge you to grant the adjustment so that Keegan can sustain and expand their meaningful and valuable outreach and educational activities in their renovated facilities.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Audrey Benson and Bob Benson in cursive script.

Audrey and Bob Benson
2616 N. Potomac Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207