

June 5, 2014

Elizabeth Lazaro
26 Kennedy Street, NE
Washington, DC 20011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200 South
Washington DC 20001

Dear Madam and Sir:

This letter is in reference to BZA Application No. 18791. I say NO to the expansion of the group home reference in BZA Application No. 18791.

I reside at Blair and Kennedy Streets, NE just footsteps from the planned group home expansion. My key concern is that I have a young teenage daughter who has to walk past the home twice a day. The group home houses people and people from time to time have problems. My concern is that from time to time things will go wrong and other people will be involved and suffer harm. A few weeks ago, the police showed up to the house because a resident said he had a gun. The ambulance regularly visits the existing home because of a very ill resident, and I also understand that the group home was the location of a murder about 6-years ago.

So this location, in particular, has experience the ups and downs of housing people with different conditions and from different walks of life. I believe residents should expect that what could go wrong will go wrong. With this being the case, I say NO to the expansion of the group home reference in BZA Application No. 18791.

In addition, I believe that this area of Ward 4 including Tacoma, Manor Park and Petworth has been burdened with more than its fair share of group homes for profit who can choose not to serve or admit DC residents. These homes need to vanish and be provided to people or to organizations willing to serve DC residents. Our city is suffering through its most severe homeless crisis in decades and we still suffer carpet baggers who buy homes and change the business use and zoning.

You don't have to take my word for it, if you look closely, most residents of the group homes in our neighborhoods have family living in Maryland and Virginia. Isn't it time for Maryland and Virginia to step up to the plate and take care of their own? Why must DC with its growing demands for housing and rising home tax rates be burdened by the social issues of Potomac, Mitchellville, Rockville and Woodbridge. If we must take care of our own, let's make sure Maryland and Virginia to do the same by not allowing group home expansions that serve primarily non-resident families and their disabled.

I say NO to the expansion of the group home reference in BZA Application No. 18791. A new proposal showing the home serves primarily DC families and their disabled relatives may have my vote. This way my neighborhood will be doing its part for DC, and serve a real need that benefits us all and the future of our children. For now, please refer expansions to Mitchellville, Potomac, Rockville and Bowie where it belongs. DC can no longer afford to squander its resources for the posh suburbs.

Thank you,

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