

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Office of the Director

July 1, 2014

Ellen McCarthy
Acting Director
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E-650
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I am writing to inform you of the Department of Behavioral Health's strong support for the proposal submitted by Community Connections for the development of their project at 5422 Blair Road, NE. Community Connections works closely with the Department of Behavioral Health to provide community based treatment and residential services to District residents with mental health issues. Currently, they operate twelve licensed group homes and an array of independent housing units.

Last year Community Connections submitted a proposal to the Department of Housing and Community Development to significantly improve and expand their group home facility located at 5422 Blair Road NE. This project will expand the capacity from six to eight residents and will provide much needed mobility- challenged residents with an all-inclusive single floor experience. When the project is complete, the house will serve four individuals with accessibility limitations in the first floor setting and an additional four residents with individual rooms on the second floor. The Department of Behavioral Health supports this project and through its partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development has committed grant funds for construction.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Suzanne Fenzel, Deputy Director, OSPPE, at (202) 671-4074.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Baron
Director

Cc: Ellen Gardener, Community Connections
Suzanne Fenzel, DBH

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.18791
EXHIBIT NO.30