

Carolyn A. Cook
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 3G-01
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November 16, 2015

RE: BZA18843A

Dear Mr. Moy:

I am writing today to express my strong support for the neighbors who oppose the planned addition at 5536 39th Street, NW as described. Would you kindly pass on this letter for appropriate consideration in BZA application 18843A?

Given the criteria that your letter to ANC 3/4G set forth, five homeowners appeared before our ANC, Monday, November 9 to oppose this construction citing the adverse impacts to sunlight, air, privacy and the scenic view that they currently have.

The Pashby's property abuts the backyards of three separate homes. This is not an average situation for the Chevy Chase DC neighborhood. Any modification to this lot on paper may seem reasonable and comparable to other homes nearby. However, the fact is that the lot configuration is not. In the final determination of a special exception for this lot, the lot's configuration is exceptional when compared to a typical lot in Chevy Chase and this fact should be given special consideration.

The majority of ANC 3/4G voted to support this application viewing it as a technicality surrounding lot use. While that may be the case, I believe that our job as the ANC is to represent the views of impacted residents and to inform the city accordingly. Though ANC3G's 5:2 vote formally approves the special exception for the Pashby's, it does not reveal the conscientious deliberations and discussions with residents on both sides that took place prior.

ANC 3G's request for additional arbitration reflects the difficulty in arriving at our decision and takes into account the feedback made by another commissioner and myself that opposed this special exception. I join my colleagues in their request that the parties are instructed to work together with an arbiter towards possible further remediation. As I understand it, the five homeowners have already identified a few changes to the overall project that would be satisfactory to them.

In view of this, I would ask that you strongly consider granting ANC 3/4G's recommendation for mediation. If this cannot be accommodated, I would ask that Ms. Lisa Terry, Mr. Bruce Meredith and Mr. Peter Koelker be granted their request

for a continuance in order to seek further professional guidance and legal counsel if necessary.

Thank you in advance for the important work you do and for giving ample consideration to all parties' interests before arriving at your final decision.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Carolyn Cook

Commissioner Carolyn "Callie" Cook

ANC 3G-01

202-309-1963