

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING BZA CASE 18980: APPEAL OF CONCERNED CITIZENS OF ARGONNE PLACE

Dear Commissioners:

Commissioner Alan Gambrell and some Argonne Place residents first objected to the development at 1636 Argonne Place last fall. Under the name "Concerned Citizens of Argonne Place" they filed an appeal with BZA earlier this year.

Commissioner Gambrell says that opposition to this condo conversion project is not an expression of "nimbyism" but an effort to ensure zoning regulations are enforced. Commissioner Gambrell's conviction on this topic is so strong he has challenged rulings of the Zoning Administrator and debated DCRA attorneys.

But the recent BZA hearing has left appellants struggling over the interpretation of one word on a zoning data summary sheet as the sole remaining basis for their appeal.

BZA has requested findings of fact and conclusions of law from both sides next month, although transcripts from the last meeting indicate appellants are unlikely to prevail.

Tonight I ask for transparency. Does ANC1C plan to file an appeal if BZA rules in favor of the developer, the Zoning Administrator and DCRA?

Opposition from ANC1C to row house condo conversions is a matter of record. An appeal by this ANC of any BZA decisions in favor of this developer could be easily construed as harassment or as an abuse of office to deprive him of his lawful rights.

Will ANC1C accept an adverse decision from BZA in order to avoid this appearance of harassment and abuse of authority? And more importantly to end the adverse effects from long vacant properties at 1630, 1632, 1634 and 1636 Argonne Place, as well as other condo projects underway on 18th Street and Ontario Place in Lanier Heights?

Any clarifications commissioners can offer on this question are welcome.

Respectfully,

Ronald Baker

Ronald Baker
Another Concerned Citizen of Argonne Place
August 5, 2015