

December 12, 2015

D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment

RE: Expression of support for slight zoning variance for St. Thomas Parish of DuPont Circle Building Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing, as a resident of Ward 2 of Washington, DC, and a 12-year member of St. Thomas Parish of DuPont Circle, to express support for St. Thomas to receive a slight variance from lot occupancy requirements to build a new church and residential building on its site.

As a member of the parish, I know that our Building Committee has worked long and hard to devise the most appropriate plan to construct a new church building, one that would replace the old church lost to arson and one that also would allow our parish adequate space to welcome each Sunday the increased number of neighborhood residents who wish to worship with us. In addition, I am confident that the Building Committee has worked conscientiously and diligently with appropriate approval bodies and neighborhood groups throughout the process.

Although the new building plan obviously would take greater space than our current building (which was never intended to be a permanent worship space, and which also is not handicap accessible), I recently learned that the new building would actually be slightly smaller than the original church that occupied the lot until its destruction in 1970.

St. Thomas Parish means a great deal to me personally, particularly as a gay man who did not find a welcoming, empowering church home until I joined St. Thomas. Our parish is woven into the fabric of the neighborhood and the city in countless ways, in our service to others, our hosting of neighborhood groups, and our witness as a loving and progressive voice of faith. The new building project will give us the space and the means to continue our service to others for many years into the future.

Thank you for allowing me to share my comments.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Kucharski
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Washington, DC 20005

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19133
EXHIBIT NO.94

