

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I write to you both as a member of St. Thomas' Parish and as a resident of Dupont Circle. I live at 17th and Church Streets.

I feel strongly both as a member of the congregation and as a resident of the Dupont Circle community that the church receive whatever approvals necessary to re-build St. Thomas' Parish. We need a building that will meet the needs of the current congregation and those of the future. Our neighbors have brought up many objections against the project and these have been addressed over the course of many meetings.

My neighbors want to save the Dupont Circle that was rather than looking forward to what Dupont Circle can be in the future. We have had a number of businesses relocate to 14th Street and Columbia Heights. I am not suggesting that we emulate those neighborhoods, but I think the new church building would add some much needed vitality to the neighborhood. A neighborhood that is allowed to become stagnant will eventually die.

Sincerely,  
Jane E. Saari  
1514 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036