

December 14, 2015

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200 S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear BZA,

I am writing to support Case #19133, a building project proposed by the historic St. Thomas' Church at 17th & Church St., NW. I'm a citizen of Washington, and I think this project helps contribute to the public good of our city. Therefore, I urge you to provide the project an appropriate variance.

I believe Dupont Circle needs additional public space, which this project would provide. From what I have heard, the church building would include event space and meeting rooms open to the public. Twelve step groups have used this space for many years, and the new building would allow for more services like these.

I believe needs charitable social services provided by nonprofits and churches like St. Thomas. From what I've heard, this church provides financial support and services to homeless persons and to organizations assisting the homeless such as Christ House in Adams Morgan and Samaritan Ministries. Perhaps this church could do more with extra space.

I believe the city needs additional housing units, including some affordable units in Dupont Circle. From what I've heard, this project includes residential units that would help address that need, and help keep the neighborhood active for local businesses.

I believe the church is an historic building that deserves to rebuild after a fire destroyed most of its site almost 50 years ago. It was a prominent building then and deserves to be a prominent building again. From what I've heard, the new site would be only as big, if not slightly smaller, than the original.

For these reasons, I urge you to grant a variance to this project.



Jason Kello
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Washington, DC