

Mayor Bowser,

I write today to express my firm support for the St. Thomas parish as the church embarks on a new building, including the construction of condos. I have lived in Ward 2 for 4 years (1535 17th St NW) and am an occasional worshipper at St. Thomas due to its proximity in the neighborhood. It saddens me to know that the church was destroyed by felonious arson decades ago, and I have been hopeful that the church would rebuild to restore the grandeur of the building as it was in its early history. The plan to build adjacent condos is a reasonable measure to allow the church to finance its new building, which will also double as a community space. In addition, I welcome the new buildings as an alternative to the park area that currently exists in front of the church, where at night I have seen drug use, public urination and defecation, and have purposely avoided at night. Moreover, to this point, St. Thomas has worked tirelessly to address my concerns and those of other neighbors around space, height, and other characteristics of the new dimension, including the removal of a past developer for a different developer that can better accommodate the needs and viewpoints of the neighborhood.

As a DC and Ward 2 resident within a 1 block radius of St. Thomas, I urge you to support the building plans of St. Thomas, including construction of a new church and condos to finance the building. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Victoria Roehrich
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