

Councilmember Evans:

As a Ward 2 resident and parishioner at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, I am writing to express my support for the building project at 1772 Church Street, NW. I have lived in Ward 2 for several years and have voted for you in the past. I am quite baffled and disappointed that you have decided to oppose this project at this point in the process after many months of community meetings and hearings. Had you taken the time to speak with members of St. Thomas's parish before taking this position, you would already know that you have constituents who strongly support this project. I am one of those constituents.

St. Thomas's is a vibrant faith community that has been an important part of the Dupont Circle neighborhood for nearly 125 years. In that time, it has witnessed many changes in the neighborhood, including the fire that destroyed our church building in 1970. The parish decided to remain in the neighborhood, despite this setback, at a time when staying in Dupont Circle was neither the only nor the most obvious option. Since the fire, St. Thomas's has committed itself to social justice and has been an outspoken voice for inclusion. It is a beloved spiritual home to me and many others in the past and present.

Now St. Thomas's has an opportunity to build a new church building on the site of the historic building that was lost to arson. This new building will better serve both our parish family and the community groups that meet at St. Thomas's.

I, too, am one of your constituents, Councilmember Evans, and I wholeheartedly support this project.

Sincerely,

Gregory Zitterkob

1420 N St, NW Apt. 808

Washington, DC 20005