

Dear Neighbors,

I have lived in Ward 2 for the last twenty years. My husband has lived here for seven years. My son has lived here all his life. We are also members of St. Thomas's Parish. I am writing to express my strong support for St. Thomas' to receive a slight variance from lot occupancy requirements (86.7% instead of 80%), to allow the construction of an addition for a church and a residential building on our site. We are requesting the variance because it is difficult to build on our site due to the need to preserve the existing historic structures while constructing required parking underneath them. This variance for St. Thomas' will benefit the public good by providing more housing in the area and provide an accessible community space in Dupont Circle.

Our surviving parish house, which was never designed as a permanent worship space and it is no longer adequate for the church's needs, much less for sustaining a thriving community through the next century. An interior wall has become an external wall which means our sanctuary has permanent water damage. The structural integrity of the ruins cannot be maintained indefinitely. We also need to make our facilities accessible for the disabled, not only for our parishioners but also for AA members and other community groups who use our building. Our project needs to meet the essential program needs of the parish, as determined through a long and detailed planning process that was conducted three years ago. These essential needs are driving the requested variance in percent of lot coverage. The percentage of lot coverage for our original building that was burned down by an arsonist in 1970 was in fact just slightly greater than the percentage we are now requesting. So we are not asking for anything new by way of this variance.

Thank you,

Jean L Holman

Submitted on 12/13/2015 by:

Jean Holman

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