

12/9/2015

Bettina Hager  
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Apartment 514  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Evans,

I want to write to express my support for the building project of a church by St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish. As both a neighbor and parishioner, I have watched this process progress and feel compelled to voice my belief that this project should move forward.

As a resident of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, I sympathize with the concerns of my neighbors. St. Thomas' gift of community space over the past 45 years has been widely enjoyed and is cherished. We must remember and be thankful for the kindness and sensibility of the St. Thomas' parishioners who decided to temporarily dedicate the land as a park after the 1970 arson that burnt down their place of worship.

I also understand the concern that traffic will increase to the area, however, this is not unique to development by St. Thomas' church. As neighbors, the St. Thomas' community has made many efforts to reach out within the neighborhood to solicit concerns and answer questions. The church has made many changes to the design in direct result of these conversations.

As a member of St. Thomas' Parish, I know that there is a need to build a sound structure to continue our worship services. Leaders in the church have looked at many options and the partnership with CAS Reigler was entered only after thoughtful discernment.

Although St. Thomas' has been honored to share the park with the community, the fact is that this is the church's land. As a church community, we need to move forward to be part of the future and not just a relic of history. Our members have so much to share with the world and need a church home to be able to do it.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Bettina Hager

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