

Edward B. Latham, Jr.
2130 N Street, NW, Apt. 407
Washington, DC 20037

December 14, 2015

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

RE: Support for Zoning Variance Request for St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church Building Project
(Case # 19133)

To Whom It May Concern:

As a longtime member of St. Thomas' Parish and resident owner in Ward 2, I am writing to express my strong support for St. Thomas' request for a 6.7% zoning variance as expressed in Case # 19133.

For more than a century, St. Thomas' has been a place for people of all ages, races, and sexual identities to gather for worship and to serve the community. We host regular community groups on a weekly basis, and we've hosted countless weddings, funerals and other events for members and nonmembers alike. Our parishioners give back to Dupont Circle and the wider DC community both financially and as volunteers to Christ House, Samaritan Ministry, and numerous other local organizations as part of our community outreach efforts. We have a long history as a powerful voice for justice, peace, inclusion and tolerance.

Our current structure is no longer adequate to meet the needs of our growing membership and community needs, its structure is deteriorating, and it is not ADA compliant. We now have the opportunity, working with our development partner CAS Riegler, to build a new building that will allow us to continue our mission for many years to come.

Our development plans require preserving the existing historical structures and constructing required parking underneath, making it difficult to build on our site. To accommodate these and other essential requirements, we will need a slight variance from lot occupancy requirements from 80% to 86.7%. This increase is less than the lot coverage of our original building before the 1970 fire, so it will simply restore us to our original lot occupancy. Additionally, there are other structures less than a block away —such as Dupont East Condominium and the Copley Plaza Coop — that are larger than our proposed structure, so it is fair to say that our proposed building is consistent with the nature and character of the surrounding neighborhood in terms of scale and height.

I urge you to grant us this 6.7% zoning variance so that we can move forward with our building plans and continue to serve the Dupont Circle neighborhood and the District of Columbia well into the future.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Latham, Jr.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 19133
EXHIBIT NO. 121