

December 14, 2015

BZA, DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear BZA,

I am writing to support you granting a variance to the St. Thomas' Episcopal Church building project. I live at 17th & Corcoran, and I have lived in Washington for over 10 years. I know this church well as a member, and I know it contributes to the public good of our city.

Our neighborhood needs more public space. The new church would include event space and meeting rooms for the public, including recovery programs and LGBT-affirming support groups and spiritual groups that do not have a place to meet. St. Thomas' hosted the first ever Latino Pride worship service in 2012.

Our city needs more services for low-income individuals. St. Thomas' provides food and clothing throughout the year, and many people volunteer at local nonprofits such as Christ House and Samaritan Ministries. Imagine what more could be done with more space and more members.

Our city needs prominent, beautiful buildings to match a prominent, beautiful neighborhood. St. Thomas' is asking to rebuild the church to cover the lot as it originally did. I think our neighborhood would benefit from a beautiful, prominent building that once stood where ruins do now. Frankly, the ruins are not attractive and falling down.

For these reasons, I hope you will grant a variance to this project.

Sincerely,



David Perez
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