

To whom it may concern:

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Dupont Circle has been an icon for both spirituality and outreach to neighbors, particularly those in need, since its founding in 1894. It has been acknowledged as the Church of the Presidents over many decades, with luminaries attending and taking leadership roles, including Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt.

I have been a member of St Thomas' for more than 30 years, serving on the Vestry and other committees which provide a wide variety of services through the good work of the parish. We have consistently supported human rights locally and globally and stood for equality, acceptance, respect, and support of all people.

The zoning variance which the church is requesting is within a range which has been previously permitted, and is important to the building project we have been working diligently on for the last 5 years, and before. This variance is necessary for elements of the building plan which include preservation of historic construction and addition of a much needed parking garage.

Over the course of our history we have stood for human rights and equality. In the decades since the 1970's, when we lost the Gothic structure that faced 18th Street due to arson, St Thomas' has remained standing and, though reduced to the use of our Guild Hall, we have provided services and support to many groups serving the homeless and needy, while also backing gay rights, inclusion without restriction, basic community services and many other charitable community projects. I can speak to the commitment and dedication involved in this outreach, in which I have frequently participated.

As a longtime member of the Parish, I urge you to support the full vision of the building program, and the full potential we are committed to living out as we enlarge our presence visibly, spiritually, and in our giving programs. Your support will enable us to expand not only our facilities, but most importantly will enable St. Thomas' to fully contribute to our community, causes, and city, and also allow us to improve our services and response to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Thank you --

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