

December 14, 2015

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Chair Martinique Heath, AIA

Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th Street SW, Suite 200S

Washington, DC 20024

Re: Application of J. River 1772 Church Street, LLC and St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish, Case No. 19133

Dear Chair Heath and Members of the Board:

I am a resident of Ward 4 in the District of Columbia. I am writing in strong **SUPPORT** of the Applicant St. Thomas' Parish and J. River 1772 Church Street, LLC in Case No. 19133. I urge you to grant the application.

When I was preparing to move from Honolulu, Hawai'i to the Washington, D.C area in 2011, two families from my Saint Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral family told me that I would probably find a new church family at St Thomas Parish in DuPont Circle. I arrived to the D.C. area in July 2011 and after 'church shopping' I determined that St Thomas Episcopal Parish would be my new church family home. I have to say that I was a bit shocked by my own choice, because as a physical structure, there are very few redeeming qualities, let alone any reliable functional capabilities. Having been born and raised as an Episcopalian, I was accustomed to a more traditional church building with a real sanctuary and proper worship support spaces – and most certainly one that was intended to actually be a complete church facility and not a former parish hall/theatre/multi-purpose room.

Since the arsonist burned the original building, the surviving parish house has acted as a temporary sanctuary, classroom, parish hall, and meeting space – at least until such time when we could rebuild. Finally, after 40+ years, we have developed a plan, participated in the civic and legal framework and are ready to physically rebuild St Thomas'. This rebuilding will make it possible for us completely house all aspects of our church family and support our fuller involvement in our community.

As a member of the St Thomas Parish Building Committee and a member of the Finance Committee, I have been actively participating in the building development process for the past 3 years. I, along with the rest of my church family, have spent a great deal of time preparing for this rebuilding and know that what we build will need to last into the 22nd century.

The zoning variance will enable us to rebuild our church in a space just a little less than the original building and to do so that the next 100 years can contribute back to our community as much as we have over the previous 100 years.

Thank you for service to the District of Columbia and for reading my comments.

Sincerely,

Leonard Clamore (Clay) Dursthoff

610 Ingraham St NW

Washington, DC 20011

Submitted on 12/15/2015 by:

Leonard Clay Dursthoff

610 Ingraham St. NW (Ward 4) 20011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19133
EXHIBIT NO.134