



*The*  
**Josephite's**  
Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart

St. Joseph Seminary

January 29, 2018

2018 FEB -5 PM 12:19

Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairman  
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment  
441 Fourth Street N.W., Suite 200S  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Re: BZA Case No. 19377 – Lot 1067, Square 3648 – Townhouse and New Paulist Father  
Location at 3015 4th Street, NE**

Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Board:

I'm writing on behalf of Josephite Fathers and Brothers to express our strong support for the BZA application for the proposed project featuring new townhouses and the new Paulist Fathers building on Lot 1067 in Square 3648.

I am the representative of St. Joseph Seminary located in the Brookland neighborhood near the Property. We have been in the neighborhood for 80 years and are located 3 miles away from the property. As such, we have reviewed the BZA application with great interest. It is important to us that the Brookland area maintains its unique blend of institutional and residential uses with appropriate density.

Generally, The Josephites are pleased with the project at 3015 4th Street NE. The development will provide several benefits to our community and the District of Columbia. Most importantly, the project is a sensitively designed enhancement to the site that will create new residential opportunities in an area that is ideally situated for families. No residents are displaced as the result of this project. On the contrary, the project will allow families to remain in the area and remain in the District.

As an institution in this community, we are also happy to see that this project allows the Paulist Fathers to remain in the neighborhood. The Fathers have been important members in our local fabric for generations. They have been consistently open to the wider community and remain so to this day. The Paulist Fathers are active members of our community and I see great value in them remaining in such capacity. Maintaining the existing institutional uses and providing opportunities for relocation where necessary is an important aspect of Brookland's development.

The project also incorporates a high degree of open space and greenery into the concept design, laying the new townhouses and future Paulist Building into the landscape rather than projecting the new buildings into the landscape. The resulting design is one that sensitively co-exists with the natural environment rather than one that imposes a residential community onto its site. In addition, the applicant has gone to great lengths to save a large number of trees on the property, at the cost of removing several townhouses. Also importantly, the open space, including the various yards around the proposed buildings allows for a sense of openness appropriate for this property's context.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 19377  
EXHIBIT NO. 58

We believe that this project is a wise move for this Property and benefits the wider Brookland community. This is the type of investment in our neighborhood that increases the value of our community and enhances the area for everybody. Thank you for taking the time to receive our input on this important project. We would be happy to provide additional information if helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Ricard", written over a horizontal line.

+Bishop John Ricard, SSJ. Ph.D