

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Jessica Lerner <jessicalerner@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:52 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Ward 3 Temporary Housing for the Homeless -- Ward 3, Case 19450

Frederick Hill, Chairman

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
441-4th St., NW, Suite 2105  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Hill:

My name is Jessica Lerner, and I live at 3511 Idaho Avenue NW in Ward 3, along with my husband and three children. I am writing this letter to support the proposed short term family housing at 3320 Idaho Avenue NW, which will be located less than two blocks away from our home. Without this housing in Ward 3, the District will not be able to meet its goal of providing 240 safe replacement units for families now housed at DC General, and therefore the City will not be able to close DC General. Closing DC General is imperative. Most residents of our City agree that DC General has failed miserably to provide safe and sanitary housing to our most needy residents.

Homelessness is a serious problem in DC. I applaud the District's effort to build short term housing for homeless families and to place this housing in smaller buildings locating in all of the wards. The proposed Ward 3 shelter is designed to accommodate 50 units in a 6-story building. Though concerns have been expressed about the building's height, the size and design of the building is clearly compatible with other buildings that surround the Idaho Avenue location, and there is no indication that its operation will adversely affect the nearby community. To the contrary, the introduction of needy, mostly minority homeless families will be a welcome addition to our mostly upper middle class, white neighborhood. And many residents of this neighborhood are eager to share the privileges we enjoy with the families that would be housed in this shelter.

I urge you to grant the variances needed to build this facility: allowing more than one primary structure on the lot; allowing the six stories and building height; and waiving the loading dock requirement. The Board's approval will advance the public good and the public interest. It will allow Ward 3 to do our share to help support the City's neediest residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lerner  
3511 Idaho Avenue NW

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.19450  
EXHIBIT NO.104