

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Kelly <ks_mcshane@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:34 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Ward 3, case 19450, in support of short term family housing at 3320 Idaho Ave. NW

Frederick Hill, Chairman

Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th St NW, Suite 210S

Washington, D.C. 20001

Chairperson Hill:

I reside at 5011 34th St, NW in Ward 3. I am also the CEO of Community of Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services to families experiencing homelessness in DC, and have served on the Community Advisory Team for the Ward 3 project as well as the Design Task Force that initially reviewed design specifications for the new temporary housing programs. I am writing this letter in full support of the proposed short term family housing at 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW.

I have been integrally involved in the development and implementation of the city's HomewardDC plan to end homelessness. One of the first goals is to create a more effective crisis response system. Closing the dilapidated DC General Shelter is a key component in this strategy. Families deserve to live in higher quality surroundings and integrated into communities. I have seen first hand how uplifting a beautiful building can be for children and parents who are experiencing a crisis. As part of the design team, I also advocated that there be no more than ten families on a floor in order to ensure that there could be the opportunity to create community within smaller portions of a building, and not create the negative feel of such a large facility as DC General Shelter. While I understand that there are concerns about a six story building, I do believe that it is advantageous programmatically to create a more comfortable feel for families. I have also been impressed with the design which meets or exceeds the recommendations of the Design Task Force, including communal space for families, learning space for children, a good ratio of private and shared bathrooms, and space for staff who will provide case management services to help families return to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

I urge you to grant the three variances needed to construct this facility at 3320 Idaho Ave. NW: more than one primary structure on the lot, the number of stories and building height as well as the requirement for a loading dock. I strongly believe that the program and building will be of great benefit to families who have experienced homelessness and that the Department of Human Services has worked hard to mitigate

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District of Columbia
CASE NO.19450
EXHIBIT NO.113

community concerns while balancing the programmatic needs of the families and children who will live in the short-term housing.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sweeney McShane

5011 34th St., NW