

February 15, 2017

Frederick Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairperson Hill:

I reside at 3883 Connecticut Avenue NW in Ward 3. I am writing this letter in full support of the proposed short-term family housing at 3320 Idaho Avenue NW (**case #19450**). Without the proposed family housing in Ward 3, the District will not be able to meet its goal of 240 replacement units citywide so D.C. General can finally be closed. Closing DC General, a long-term goal of the District, is widely supported as a great unmet need in the city.

Homelessness is a serious problem in the District, and family homelessness is growing. As someone who has worked with homeless children, I know that these children have “no time to lose” in getting the safe, dignified housing and other supports they need to grow into healthy, productive adults. I applaud the government’s efforts to construct short-term housing for families experiencing homelessness and to place this family housing in all Wards. The Ward 3 shelter is designed to accommodate 50 family units in a six-story building. I believe the design of this facility is compatible with the neighborhood. Fears about its effect on the community largely stem from misconceptions and stereotypes about people experiencing homelessness. Based on reality and experience in other areas, I believe that the operation of a short-term family housing site in this location will not adversely affect the surrounding community.

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. The public good is served by approving this building.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Folcarelli

Name and Address:
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