

February 20, 2017

By email: bzsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: 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 2105
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Hill:

I live at 2731 Ordway Street NW in Ward 3. I am writing this letter to support the proposed short term family housing at 3320 Idaho Ave., NW. Without this housing in Ward 3, the District will not be able to meet its goal of 240 replacement units for families now housed at DC General and we won't be able to close DC General. Closing DC General will meet a huge need in our City, and in particular will help create a safer environment for children and teens who experience housing insecurity.

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 all wards. The Ward 3 shelter is designed to accommodate 50 units in a 6-story building. Though concerns have been expressed about the building's height, I do not believe the design is incompatible with the neighborhood, nor will its operation adversely affect the surrounding community.

I urge you to grant the variances needed to build this facility: more than one primary structure on the lot; the number of stories and building height; and waiving the loading dock requirement. The Board's approval will advance the public good and the public interest.

Sincerely,

Kehan DeSousa