

Frederick Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001
Via email: dcoz@dc.gov

February 20, 2017

Re: BZA Case # 19450, 3320

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I reside near 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW, the site selected by the D.C. Council for the short-term family emergency shelter in Ward 3. I am writing to you to lend my full support for this important civic project.

The Ward 3 Temporary Housing for Families project is exactly the type of need that should be an exception to the RA-1 zone because of the important services it will provide for the community. There are many Ward3 community residents like me who have knowledge and experience of serving the D.C. homeless population. I want to assure you that we are poised to welcome these families and ready to help in any way to support their needs.

While there are concerns about the height and number of stories (6), I believe that the special exception and variance requests are reasonable accommodations to make for this project. The adjacent commercial, multifamily residential and single family residential buildings provide a multi-scaled context for this building to fit in. With more design revisions to the façade and site the building can be a compatible structure in the neighborhood.

At the public meetings, many Idaho Ave residents spoke of their current inconvenience from overflow parking of the police station. The need for additional parking can be addressed with the proposed new 2 story parking structure located on the Second District Police property. As a DC taxpayer I am willing to support this additional expense if it means that both the Second District and the Temporary Housing can operate in a more efficient manner. I do not believe that the inconvenience of parking for a resident weighs more heavily than the burdens of a homeless family, I urge you to consider this in your decision.

Sincerely,

Leah Weatherspoon
McLean Gardens
3872 Porter Street NW