

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Eric Peltz <eric@chevyCHASEPC.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:13 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Molly Blythe Teichert
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 210 S

Washington DC 20001

Chairperson Hill,

I am writing on behalf of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church (CCPC) to ask that you **support the three variances needed** (more than one primary structure on the lot, the number of stories and building height as well as the requirement for a loading dock) for a short-term family housing facility in Ward 3. The proposed Ward 3 site is a lot at 3320 Idaho Avenue NW, next to the Second District Police Station in the McLean Gardens area. Our church is strongly supportive of this site for a family shelter in our ward. We urge that this facility be approved and be built on the same schedule as the six other planned ward-based family housing facilities, so that the dilapidated 280-unit city family shelter at the old DC General Hospital site can be closed as soon as possible.

The Session of CCPC, our governing body, voted at its November 22, 2016 meeting to affirm its support for the 3320 Idaho Avenue NW facility. In making this request of you, we are compelled by our Judeo-Christian faith to act for the welfare of our neighbors facing homelessness: In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus reminds us that “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40. Jesus also teaches us in the parable of the Good Samaritan that we must love our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:25-37). Likewise, in Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Moses commanded:

If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.

As people of faith, and as human beings, we have to do our fair share to help create a world in which everyone has what they need. Our Judeo-Christian call is clear: that we welcome those members of our

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community who are the most vulnerable. We love because God first loved us. We show hospitality because God showed us what being a good neighbor looks like.

CCPC has worked on behalf of DC's homeless population for many years. For 35 years, our Transition Assistance Program ministry (formerly the Volunteer Assistance Corps) has assisted homeless and other indigent persons to obtain birth certificates and identification cards needed for housing, school and benefits enrollment, and employment. We continue to support financially and with personnel the work of Friendship Place and Miriam's Kitchen, and The Way Home campaign that they co-chair. The campaign seeks to apply in DC the "housing first" approach to chronic homelessness that has proved so successful elsewhere in the country.

We believe that the present plan, including the location of the proposed Ward 3 facility on District-owned land on Idaho Avenue NW is fair and equitable. As long-term participants in the Ward 3 community, we urge you to lend your support to this important initiative, which holds promise for the most vulnerable members of our community – families facing homelessness who are our neighbors.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert

Senior Pastor, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

1 Chevy Chase Circle NW

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