



# CLEVELAND PARK CONGREGATIONAL UCC

*Nurturing Love of God and Neighbor in the World*

February 18, 2017

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

Re: Case No. 19450

Dear Mr. Hill,

The Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application for the short term family housing facility planned for Ward 3. This facility should be built on the same schedule as the facilities in the other six wards so that DC General can be closed as soon as possible.

In making this request, we are compelled by our faith to act on behalf of our neighbors who have been homeless:

*If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsman in any of your settlements in the land that God is providing you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. Rather, you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he may need. – Deuteronomy 15:7-8*

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.

The defining characteristic of a community is its willingness to rise above personal differences and to come together when it matters most. Too many families in our city have little or no safety net. High housing costs, low wage jobs combined with family emergencies lead too often to personal crisis and no safe place to live. It is our moral obligation to work together to create and support a solution, such as the short term family housing planned for Ward 3, that helps families stabilize and take the first steps to a better future. Not everyone in Ward 3 will find the short term family housing a perfect solution, but at its core it will provide the kind of help that is needed when it is needed. When we act in response to community emergencies we become stronger, more just, and more worthy of the very word community.

You can count on our congregation working with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) and Good Faith Communities Coalition (GFCC) to stay engaged, to work to make sure the short term family housing is well-designed, well-built, well-maintained, and to volunteer once the facility is open. We are committed to welcoming the stranger.

John Osborne  
Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ.

RECEIVED  
U.C. OFFICE OF ZONING  
2017 FEB 22 PM 2:30