



March 15, 2017

Mr. Frederick Hill, Chair
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Ref: BZA Case No 19450, 19451, 19452, Application of DC Department of General Services, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapters 9 and 10, for special exceptions under the parking requirements of Subtitle C § 703.1, and the RA-use requirements of Subtitle U § 420.1(f), and variances from the number of primary structure requirements of Subtitle C § 302.2, the loading requirements of Subtitle C § 901.1, and the height and number of stories requirements of Subtitle F § 303.1, to allow the construction of a six-story short-term family housing

Dear Chairman Hill and BZA Board Members:

As President of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association (CPCA) and a member of the Ward 3 Short-Term Family Housing Advisory Team (the Team), I am writing in response to your request, at the conclusion of the March 1st BZA hearing on the Ward 3 shelter, for more information pertaining to the shelter advisory teams, including their role and how they came about.

For the record, CPCA has not considered or taken a position on the issues before the BZA or even on the proposed shelter itself. Therefore, any suggestion that CPCA representatives' participation in the team reflects meaningful community engagement on the part of our members with regard to the specific matters before the BZA, much less an endorsement of the special exception request, is erroneous.

In August of 2016, I was asked by CM Mary Cheh for names of three people to serve on the Short-term Family Housing Advisory Committee (the Committee). I provided three names, including my own, who were then asked by Commissioner Zeilinger to be on the committee. All three accepted.

At no time did we speak on behalf of the community or represent the members of CPCA. Any comments were made on our own behalf and should not be construed to represent CPCA or some segment of the community.

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From the outset, Ms. Zeilinger and other DC government representatives made clear that the siting of the proposed shelter, as well as its height, configuration and scale, -- issues that underlie the DC government's request for a special exception from existing zoning -- were not within the purview of the advisory team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Caplan

Ruth Caplan
President

cc. CPCA Board of Directors