Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From:	Josh Beraha <jberaha@templemicah.org></jberaha@templemicah.org>
Sent:	Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:36 PM
То:	DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject:	Ward 3 Housing, Case: 19450

To whom it may concern:

Temple Micah, which represents a large contingency of Ward 3 residents, urges you to support the Department of General Services' application for the short-term family housing facility at 3320 Idaho Avenue NW. Specifically, at this moment, we make that request understanding the full scope of the variances and exceptions the city will be requesting the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve. We broadly support the project with these variances and exceptions.

The moral imperative for DC General Shelter to be shut down on schedule asks us to help ensure that the Ward 3 facility be built on the same schedule as the facilities in the other wards of the city. Our Not-For-Profit partners who work with this city's homeless population each and every day all agree that this next step--opening smaller facilities across the city--will provide people with higher quality services, more dignity, and a clearer path to finding the permanent housing required to live to their fullest potential.

Although we recognize this project isn't the final step in making homelessness in this city rare, brief, and non-recurring by 2020, it is a critical action along the way. It is also an endeavor that is worthy of our Biblical heritage, which states:

"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)

We intend to be consistently engaged, along with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), Good Faith Communities, and Ward 3 For All (<u>http://www.ward3forall.com</u>) in not only helping to move this project along, but supporting the work it does once it is up and running.

Signed,

Rabbi Daniel Zemel Rabbi Joshua Beraha Rabbi Susan Landau

Temple Micah Washington, DC 20007 <u>202.342.9175</u>

- Josh

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