

Attn: Frederick Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I reside in Ward 3 less than a mile (.8) from the D.C. Council selected site for the short-term family emergency shelter. I attended the 31 January 2017 meeting convened to review and discuss the plans for the shelter. After the meeting, I spoke with representatives from the D.C. government and congratulated them for their team's professional presentation. During this meeting, one of the architects provided a detailed description of the shelter design. I understand that in order for the District to build the shelter it would have to obtain zoning relief from the BZA for building height and number of stories, loading, and parking. I am also aware that the shelter will share the lot with the second district police station. The District representatives did an excellent job of presenting the case for the shelter. It was clear that the representatives were prepared to work with the community to discuss any concerns they had. I frankly was saddened that many of my neighbors did not seem open to the offered discussion. In spite of the fact that the DC government team offered to address any concerns, many residents greeted them with closed hostility. While being shouted at the DC government team maintained their cool, calm professionalism.

Although I have never written to any DC government official before, I decided to draft this one because I feel strongly about supporting the shelter at 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW. All of us were horrified when Relisha Rudd first went missing in 2014. Subsequent news reports revealed how serious the problem of homelessness is in the District. I, therefore, was thrilled that our local government decided to construct short-term housing for homeless families. Based on the need to reach the City's noble goal of ending homelessness in DC, I understand the Ward 3 shelter must be able to accommodate 50 units for homeless families, which I understand drives the height and stories requirement. I also understand that others are concerned with the height and parking, but I do not believe this project will adversely affect the surrounding community. In fact, when I walked to my car after the 31 January 2017 meeting, I found many vacant parking spots, which seemed to validate the parking survey results that a person presented at the session. Without the proposed

shelter at Ward 3, which supports a needed public objective, the District will not be able to meet its goal of closing D.C. General, and we will continue to lack housing for our homeless population. As such, I fully support the short-term family emergency shelter and I hope that ANC 3C and the Board of Zoning Adjustment can support this project as well.

Sincerely,

Heidi Holgate
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Washington, DC