

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

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I reside near 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW, the site selected by the D.C. Council for the short-term family emergency shelter in Ward 3. I live within four blocks of the proposed shelter. I have spoken with representatives from the D.C. government and I have reviewed the architectural plans for the shelter. I understand that the District seeks to construct a six-story shelter, but the District will 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 has done a positive job of providing information, holding community meetings, and explaining the process needed to operate an emergency shelter at this location.

I am writing this letter to offer my full support for the proposed family shelter at 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW. Homelessness is a serious problem in the District, and I applaud our local government's effort to construct short term housing for homeless families. 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. 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.

I would like to add two personal anecdotes. The first is that I grew up in the house I currently reside in. When I was growing up in the 1970's, I could ride my bike freely and walk to school easily without worrying about traffic or pedestrian safety. I walked to Murphy's and People's Drug Store and Sullivan's. Yes, the neighborhood has changed. It is much more affluent. Traffic congestion is an issue, parking is an issue. my kids don't have the same freedoms I did. But that is the nature of living in a growing, vibrant city. Change. I'm ok with

that. I don't like the parking or traffic difficulties, but I'm happy to have a better grocery store that I can walk to and good public transportation.

My other personal story is that my children and I moved back to Ward 3, specifically to the house I grew up in, because two years ago my husband left us after 18 years of marriage. We had a lovely house in Silver Spring that I could not afford to keep on my own. He was the main breadwinner of the family, but when he left, he cleaned out our accounts and left me broke and scared with three kids to support. The house went into foreclosure. I had nothing. Except that I did. I had my education, I had a part time job, and I had my parents who still lived in their home on Quebec Street. My kids and I moved in with them. So instead of trying to find low income housing for a family of four, I live with my mom and take care of her while she ages in place (my father has since passed away), and my children and I have a safe and stable place to live.

My point is pretty obvious -- there but the Grace of God go I. I am just lucky that I have the support system I do. Lucky. I didn't earn it, I'm not better. My kids and I are lucky. The homeless families in DC deserve a chance to live in a safe and appropriate space while we as a community help to provide affordable housing for all DC residents.

Sincerely,

Allison Randall  
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Washington, DC 20016