

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Miriam Sznycer-Taub <miriamst@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:21 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Henri Makembe
Subject: Re: BZA Application No. 19452, 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I am a resident of 5B03, living 3.5 blocks from the proposed Ward 5 Short-Term Family Housing Facility at 1700 Rhode Island Ave, NE. I am writing to express my support for this facility and to encourage the BZA to grant the special exceptions necessary to move this project forward.

This location will be an ideal site for a family housing facility. It is convenient to public transit, close to an affordable grocery store, and easily walkable to a newly-built library and several parks. While the District handled the site selection and announcement process poorly, that should not take away from the fact that the site ultimately selected is a good location that will meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness.

I have reviewed the concept plans for the shelter and understand that, to move forward, the District will need to obtain relief from the BZA for building height, FAR, lot occupancy, rear yard, court width, loading, and parking. These special exceptions should all be granted. While I am sympathetic to my neighbors concerns about the height of the proposed building, I understand this height is necessary to ensure that the facility can provide 46 housing units for families. The planned facility is tall, but it is not out of line with the other planned development in the neighborhood.

I have also heard concerns from my neighbors about parking. I hope the District will consider ways to ease the neighborhood's parking concerns through a good neighbor agreement. There are also opportunities for the District to add additional sidewalks and crosswalks to ensure the area directly around the new facility remains pedestrian friendly and safe.

As a mother of young children, I look forward to welcoming new families to our neighborhood. Providing a safe space for children to sleep should be a priority for our city and our community. One of the things that attracted my family to Brookland was the welcoming environment of all in the community. I look forward to sharing that same sentiment with the newest members of our community, no matter how temporary their stay.

I strongly support the Ward 5 Short Term Family Housing Facility and encourage the BZA to grant all the special exceptions necessary.

Sincerely,

Miriam Sznycer-Taub
1330 Hamlin St, NE