From:	Tom Bridge <tbridge@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, February 27, 2017 10:00 PM
To:	DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject:	Case 19452, 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE

Board of Zoning Adjustment,

My name is Tom Bridge, and I live at 1621 Monroe St NE, in the Brookland neighborhood of the District of Columbia. My wife and son and I live approximately five blocks north from the site of the proposed temporary housing shelter at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE.

This letter is to testify in favor of the shelter proposed for the site. I do not do so lightly, because this project has had a substantial impact on the heart of our community. I know people on both sides of this issue, and while I share some of the concerns, enumerated below, I share common cause with the District Government in combating homelessness.

While I support this project, there are concerns that I have that I believe the Board must address clearly and concisely in their response, and I encourage them to do so, in response to the concerns of nearby neighbors.

This project does seek to add a substantial height increase to Rhode Island Avenue, and in the attempt to preserve the existing Youth Police building, increases substantially the bulk of the lot. I understand my neighbors' concerns over the sheer number of special exemption requests that are part of the city's application, and they represent a substantial ask on the part of the government.

My neighbors need to hear how serious homelessness - especially family homelessness - is in our city. and how we need to work together, even increasing density, to provide shelter for families on the cusp of serious loss. We need to provide services and shelter for needy families. We need to close DC General. Most importantly, we need to provide neighborhood support for these families in crisis. And to do that, we need good shelters.

I am not willing to let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Please support this shelter.

Best,

Tom Bridge
1621 Monroe St NE
Washington DC 20018