



March 1, 2017

Frederick Hill
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Hill:

My name is Adam Kent and I am a Program Officer for the DC office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC DC). Our mission is to help create healthy neighborhoods that are good places to live, work, raise children, and conduct business. We are a lender, funder, advocate, and technical assistance provider. For the past three years, LISC DC has been working closely with the Rhode Island Avenue NE Main Street (RIAMS), helping them to revitalize the Rhode Island Avenue NE commercial corridor. **It is through this lens that we echo and support the testimony of RIAMS Executive Director Kyle Todd and strongly support the proposed family shelter at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE.**

As an organization that works across DC to provide affordable homes to low- and moderate-income families, we know how easy it is for families to slip into homelessness, and how detrimental housing instability and homelessness is to children and parents. With the number of families experiencing homelessness in DC increasing an astounding 34% from 2015 to 2016, now more than 4,650 families with children are experiencing homelessness.

These are crisis levels and we as an entire city must do our part to ensure DC families and their children have a safe and stable roof over their heads. The development of a family shelter on 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE will do just that, providing 46 families with children experiencing homeless a safe place to stay and get back on their feet, in a location accessible to an increasing number of job and career opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Adam Kent
Program Officer
akent@lisc.org

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 19452
EXHIBIT NO. 121