

Attn: Frederick Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 2108
Washington, DC 2001

Re: BZA Application No. 19452

Dear Chairperson Hill,

As a resident of the Brookland neighborhood of Washington, DC, I'm writing to express support for the proposed short-term family housing shelter in Ward 5 at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue N.E. While our community faces numerous challenges, homelessness deserves special attention and I applaud the local government's effort to construct short-term housing for families that lack proper shelter.

I live just two blocks from the proposed shelter site at 1530 Rhode Island, Ave NE. As a mother-to-be expecting my first child in April, I feel very fortunate to have found a safe, healthy apartment in a neighborhood where I can walk to stores, parks and a library and have access to many public transit lines. I know that these things are important for all families to be able to thrive, and believe that this makes our neighborhood an ideal one for formerly homeless families to get a new start in.

I also understand that the DC City Council is planning to construct an addition to the existing building on this site. While I'm aware of the concerns voiced by fellow Ward 5 residents regarding the height and parking accommodations for the proposed shelter, I believe many of their concerns can be addressed through detailed Good neighbor agreement and do not think these should stop the construction of the shelter. I truly believe this project is in harmony with the surrounding Brookland community. More importantly, without the proposed shelter, the District will not be able to meet its goal of closing D.C. General which, in turn, will further exacerbate the lack of adequate housing for our homeless population. In short, I fully support the short-term family housing facility and I hope the Board of Zoning Adjustment can support this project as well.

I value Brookland as a welcoming and diverse community that can and should strongly support our neighbors in crisis. I believe it is incumbent upon the entire community to ensure that all city youth and their parents have their basic needs met. Construction of this shelter is an important step in the ongoing battle to providing the city's children and underserved families the opportunity to achieve a better life. I look forward to welcoming my new neighbors when the project is completed.

Sincerely,



Mackenzie Baris
1530 Rhode Island Ave, NE #401
Washington, DC 20018