

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

Re: BZA Application No. 19452

February 28, 2017

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I'm writing to express support for the proposed short-term family housing shelter in Ward 5 at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue N.E. As someone who lives in the close vicinity of the proposed site (a few blocks away) I appreciate the opportunity to express my support.

I work at a local non-profit which for many years shared an office with an organization that trains volunteers to work with kids at DC General. Through them, I came to understand the urgency of replacing DC General with better and safer shelters for families in need.

When I learned that my neighborhood was one of the proposed sites, I was quite honestly very glad that we could help be part of the solution. To me, the location makes sense since it's close to a number of bus lines and within walking distances of stores, the library and the park.

After touring the proposed site and looking at the proposed construction plans online, I thought overall a good utilization of existing public resources. Yes, it is a squeeze but I strongly support public property like the former police building being used for public services.

One of my major concerns is that without the proposed shelter, the District will not be able to meet its goal of closing D.C. General. The lack of adequate housing and services for our homeless population is a crisis and it's important that the city take action to create more.

My family believes that we all have a responsibility to ensure that all kids and all families in our city have equal opportunity and that their rights, including to housing and education, are respected equally. Construction of this shelter is not enough but it is an important step in that direction. 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.

Sincerely,



Alexis Stoumbelis  
1530 Rhode Island Ave. NE #401  
Washington, DC 20018