

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Susan Gushue <susangushue@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:25 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Ward 5 – BZA Case #19452, 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE

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Attn: Frederick Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 19452

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I reside near 1700 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., the site selected by the D.C. Council for the short-term family emergency shelter in Ward 5. I live within six blocks of the proposed shelter. I have spoken with representatives from the D.C. government and I have reviewed the concept plans for the shelter. I understand that the District seeks to construct a six-story shelter as an addition to the existing building that was previously a police substation and that as a result the District will have to obtain relief from the BZA for building height, FAR, lot occupancy, rear yard, court width, loading, and parking. The District has done a positive job of providing information, holding community meetings, and explaining the process needed to operate an emergency shelter at this location.

I am writing this letter to offer my full support for the proposed family shelter at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. Homelessness is a serious problem in the District, and I applaud our local government's effort to construct short term housing for homeless families. The Ward 5 shelter must be able to accommodate 46 units for homeless families, which I understand drives the relief requested. I have heard that others are concerned with the height and parking, but I believe the project is in harmony with its surroundings, and I do not believe this project will tend to adversely affect the neighboring properties. Without the proposed shelter at Ward 5, which supports a needed public objective, the District will not be able to meet its goal of closing D.C. General, and we will continue to lack housing for our homeless population. As such, I fully support the short-term family emergency shelter and I hope that ANC 5B and the Board of Zoning Adjustment can support this project as well.

The site is near many things that will be great for the children including a park, a library and a swimming pool. Ward five has good schools, both public and public charter schools. and this location would make it easier for families to access those schools.

I have lived here thirty years and raised five children in Brookland and I would love to see a well-run shelter near us.

Sincerely,
Susan Gushue

3323 14th St NE
Washington, DC 20017

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19452
EXHIBIT NO.163