

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 live near the 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 12 blocks of the proposed shelter. I have followed the controversy surrounding the proposed shelter, and 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 to offer my 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, and hope that compromises can be reached to adequately address their concerns. 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 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, while addressing the most significant concerns of the nearest neighbors.

Sincerely,

Laura Worby
909 Irving St. NE
Washington, DC 20017