

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustments,

I am a resident of the ANC 5B03 community, and I oppose the zoning special exceptions and variances requested by the DC Department of General Services in case 19452 for the 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE proposed temporary homeless shelter.

The shelter is far too large for the site. It does not fit with the neighborhood of small single family homes. It goes against the city's comprehensive plan and the Upper Northeast Small Area plan for development along Rhode Island Avenue NE. Moreover, the plans call for only a few (3-4) parking spaces which is wildly unrealistic since I believe it's not uncommon for some homeless citizens to possess a vehicle both as a legacy of their former lives and a shelter.

While I support homeless families being sheltered in my neighborhood – I'm no NIMBYist, driven by fear of a decline in my house's property value -- I simultaneously demand smart development of my neighborhood and oppose the special exceptions and variances proposed because they are incongruous with the surrounding neighborhood and potentially quite detrimental to the neighborhood. The shelter design as proposed would rob neighboring houses of light, create parking disturbances for senior citizens, and create needless traffic congestion. The city has failed to demonstrate that they have made a serious attempt to find a better alternative to this massive shelter plan and has been dismissive of proposed alternatives brought forth by my community.

Please uphold the zoning regulations for 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE and ask the city to present a shelter plan that is supportive of both the homeless families and the surrounding neighborhood.

Respectfully,

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