

Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the placement and construction of a Short Term Housing for Families facility in Ward 5 to be located at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE.

One of the most pressing concerns of the past few years is closing DC General. The size and condition of the facility make it almost impossible to adequately address the challenges faced by the very vulnerable families forced to live there. As an organization, we affirm the goals of the strategic plan, Homeward DC, that planned closing DC General and creating smaller, dignified housing in all 8 wards.

Homelessness among DC families has been, and is, a serious problem. On January 1, 2017 836 families with 1749 children were in shelter and transitional housing – too many families with vulnerable children living too long in conditions that don't support family stability or do anything to avoid development delays and long-term stress in children. **We hope that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will approve the variances and exception needed to build this facility so that the District can move forward in a constructive and fair manner to address this great need.**

Brookland has been a wonderful faith-filled enclave, almost since its very beginning. So many churches, monasteries, religious houses and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic University and Providence Hospital – to mention just a few – are all leading the social work effort in this community. Catholic Charities strongly supports their efforts to reach out to the homeless and to help those in need. It seems like a very small number of families that would be eventually housed in Ward 5. As a church we believe that this is an important social justice commitment and we, of course, stand ready to provide services if the zoning is approved. I can't help but remember the words of Pope Francis when he visited Catholic Charities in Sept. 2015 he said "I want to be very clear. There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing." Catholic Charities stands with the faith community and tries to follow the pope's example. This is something the city should do and we support all those working to make it happen.

Sincerely,



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Executive Board Meetings



DCCH OFFICE 6:30pm

MEMBERS

SCHEDULE MEETING DATES

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Jesse Wimbish | 2 nd Tuesday of Each Month |
| 2. Andre Byers | March 14 th 2017 - October 10 th 2017 |
| 3. Lenwood Johnson | April 11 th 2017- November 14 th 2017 |
| 4. Doris Faulkner | May 9 th 2017 - December 12 th 2017 |
| 5. John Nyarku | June 13 th 2017 |
| 6. Lester Cuffie | July 11 th 2017 |
| 7. Bobby King Sr. | August 8 th 2017 |
| 8. Mack James | September 12 th 2017 |

DCCH Board Meetings



3rd Wednesday of each month

ALL MEMBERS

March 15th 2017 — August 16th 2017
April 19th 2017 — September 20th 2017
May 17th 2017 — October 18th 2017
June 21th 2017 — November 15th 2017
July 19th 2017 — December 20th 2017

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