

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

Commission Members:

The advocacy organizations, service providers, faith organizations and community members of the Fair Budget Coalition work to meet the needs of the District's lowest income residents. 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 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.

We support the short term family housing at 1700 Rhode Island Ave NE. The architectural plans for the facility which include preserving the decommissioned police station will meet the needs of families in transition to permanent housing as well as providing sufficient capacity to make closing DC General closer to reality. The floor plan, including facilities for families with special needs, is the right size for monitoring, privacy and support. The community rooms include the space needed for onsite services.

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 young 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.**

Sincerely,
Monica Kamen and Stephanie Sneed
Co- Directors
DC Fair Budget Coalition