

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

Re: BZA Application No. 19452

Dear Chairman Hill,

As a resident of the Brookland section of Washington, DC, I'm writing to express strong support for the pending effort to add a short-term family housing shelter in Ward 5. I am fully aware that the DC City Council previously selected my neighborhood to construct a six-story addition to an existing building that previously served as a police substation in order to house the temporary family shelter. Yet, before completing this important task, the District must first obtain relief from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for building height, Floor Area Ratio (FAR), lot occupancy, rear yard, court width loading, and parking.

The BZA should interpret this letter as another endorsement from a community resident regarding the proposed family shelter at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. While our community faces numerous challenges, homelessness deserves special attention and I applaud the local government's effort to construct short-term housing for families that lack proper shelter. As a father of a beautiful, happy three-year-old daughter, I'm extremely fortunate to have ample financial resources to provide her with a safe and warm place to sleep, grow and thrive. While my wife and I are in a position to provide a comfortable life for our child, I believe it is incumbent upon the entire community to ensure that all city youth have their basic needs met. Construction of this shelter is an important step in the ongoing battle to providing the city's children and underserved families the opportunity to achieve a better life.

Since the Ward 5 shelter must be able to accommodate 46 units for homeless families, it necessitates a review and ultimate "relief," or approval, from BZA. While I'm aware of the concerns voiced by fellow Ward 5 residents regarding the height and parking accommodations for the proposed shelter, I truly believe this project is in harmony with the surrounding Brookland community. In addition, this project will in no way adversely affect the neighboring properties. More importantly, without the proposed shelter, the District will not be able to meet its goal of closing D.C. General which, in turn, will further exacerbate the lack of adequate

housing for our homeless population. In short, 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.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via email, cshein10@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sherin
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Washington, DC 20017