

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Polina Blintsovskaya <pblintso@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:15 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Case Number 19452, 1700 Rhode Island avenue; Letter of Opposition

February 26, 2017

ATTN: Frederick Hill, Chairman

Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th St NW, Suite 210S

Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 19452

Dear Mr. Hill, and members of the Board of Zoning Adjustments,

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

The proposed design for the shelter is far too large for the site. It fits neither functionally nor aesthetically with our residential neighborhood of small family homes. Moreover, it goes against the city's and the local area's comprehensive plan for development along Rhode Island Avenue NE.

Other highly important issues that need consideration are manageability and safety. I had volunteered at a large-scale homeless shelter in the past, and I saw for myself how difficult it is to operate such a large shelter. Small shelters are not only easier to manage, but much more effective in helping the homeless.

As for safety (this concern comes from actual personal observations during my volunteer tenure), the shelter might attract not only aggressive drug dealers seeking to do business with susceptible, vulnerable former

current drug addicts (and yes, I am aware that the people the shelter seeks to help may not necessarily be former or current drug addicts) at the shelter, but also abusive significant others of the women seeking shelter.

Our neighborhood has many families with children, as well as elderly retired people. While I support the principle of helping the homeless, I don't think neighborhood safety should be sacrificed for this.

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,

Polina Blintsovskaya

2913 17th St. NE

Washington, DC 20018

Polina Blintsovskaya

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." – Vince Lombardi