

Board of Zoning Adjustments
441 4th St NW
Washington DC 20001
bzasubmissions@dc.gov

July 10, 2018

In re Case 19521A

To Board of Zoning Adjustments:

I live in Burleith at 1922 37th St. I am writing in support of the proposed garage with accessory apartment at 3520 S St NW.

I am PhD student in Tumor Biology at Georgetown University and the Lombardi Cancer Center, which are immediately adjacent to Burleith. There is a severe shortage of affordable housing units in Burleith: while there are several rental units in the neighborhood, they are neither affordable nor in good condition. I have recently looked for other housing in the area but was unable to find anything that was affordable. An accessory apartment would help add to the existing housing supply and help make rent more affordable.

In addition, the alleyways in Burleith are mostly empty and can feel unsafe, especially at night; a second-story apartment with a view of the alley would contribute to making the alleys feel safer.

I understand that there has been concern in the neighborhood about noise from rental units, but accessory apartments are a solution to that problem: if homeowners live on the same lot, they will not rent to loud tenants. I also know that the ANC has expressed concerns about parking, but I have not found parking to be a major problem in the neighborhood (high rent and neglected alleys are much larger problems).

There are many renters in Burleith. While renters tend to be younger and may not be as active with or well-represented at the ANC, I hope that the BZA will consider our views as well.

Sincerely,

Deanna Tiek
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