THE COMPREHENSIVE CENTER FOR RENEWAL, INC.

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BZA
Case No. 16572
Exhibit No. 9

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16572
EXHIBIT NO.9

THE COMPREHENSIVE CENTER FOR RENEWAL, INC. (CCRI)

I. A Statement About CCRI Organization, History, Mission and Activities

The Comprehensive Center for Renewal, Inc. **(CCRI)** was founded on September 14, 1988 as an outpatient, 501 (c)(3) community based mental health facility offering counseling and psychotherapy for the prevention and/or treatment of substance abuse and mental illnesses. **CCRI** uses the holistic approach in that treatment is geared to the whole person and, consequently, the individual is viewed from the physical, mental, emotional and social aspects.

The mission of **CCRI** is threefold:

- °To educate the community about mental health in order to promote good mental health and to alleviate stigma frequently associated with mental illness and obtaining treatment.
- ° To aggressively reach out to the community to utilize **CCRI** as a resource, and
- ° To provide the opportunity for residents to meet one another in a positive manner in order to develop strong individual and interpersonal relationships.

With a greater accepting community climate including the needed funding, **CCRI** can and will become the full pledged quality service facility for which it was founded. Serving as a vehicle to further promote its mission as well as to, indeed, meet an existing need, **CCRI** established its **Youth Enrichment Support Services (YESS) - Prevention!** Prevention for "at-risk" youth.

II. **YESS** - The Youth Enrichment Support Services **(YESS)** offers prevention against alcohol, other substance abuse and violence for youth and their families who reside in the District of Columbia.

A. The need: Virtually all statistics tell an all too depressing story about the teenagers who live in Ward Five of the District of Columbia. These struggling teenagers either lead, or are close to the lead nationwide in the following categories:

- ° infant and young adults mortality rates,
- ° out of wedlock births,
- ° school dropouts,
- ° illiterates,
- ° impoverished,
- ° homicides,
- ° substance abuse and related criminal activity

B. Objectives: **YESS** has as its primary objective, the development of programing that provides area youth between the ages of eight and fifteen with educational and cultural activities through the following:

1. Community based lay and professional (by referral) mentoring and counseling services to young people in ward #5 and beyond.
2. Services that utilize and incorporate the skills, experiences and resources of community residents and professional business persons into structured activities for our youth.
3. Tutoring in reading and mathematics, etc .
4. Assessment and evaluation of individual program participants to determine their exact strengths and needs; career planning, job seeking skills and cultural enrichment (trips to museums, theaters, art galleries, etc.)

5. Referrals for professional interventions for individual, family psychotherapy and drug rehabilitation.
6. Opportunities for families and program members to work together for the welfare of youth and participate in the program on an ongoing basis.
7. Anti-drug educational programing along with positive reinforcement through incentives and activities that lead to fulfilling productive lives.

C. Past Operation: **YESS** operated on the grounds of St. Francis de Sales Church, 2021 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., from September 1993 until September, 1997. This program was placed on "hold" due to lack of funds and the need for larger physical space. Initially, **YESS** received federal funding; however, due to government 'cutbacks and cut-outs', funds were discontinued.

The **YESS** program most successfully addressed and met the needs of those served as indicated by the participants and their parents or parent substitutes. The experience gained in the **YESS** program affirmed the critical need for programs such as this throughout the District of Columbia. A formal evaluation of **YESS** conducted by an outside agency and the results further confirmed its success.

Currently, negotiations are underway to re-open **YESS.** It is to be housed within the Woodridge area, 2903 Mills Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20018.

No applicant will be turned away because of inability to pay.

D. Founder's Vision: In addition to being the "umbrella" for **YESS**, Peggy Thomas Templeman envisions the following components falling under **CCRI**: a 24 hour crisis intervention phone hot-line, Parenting Education, Day Care for children and Day Care for the Frail and Elderly.