Washington Free Clinic Relocation into LSSNCA Offices

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The project includes the development of new, larger facilities for the Washington Free Clinic (WFC). Through this development, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) will rent clinic space to another non-profit organization. WFC is the tenant and LSS/NCA is the landlord. The clinic will utilize the first floor and part of the basement for its offices and clinic space. This project addresses the immediate need in the Petworth community for free medical services. Previously, there has not been a single medical care facility to serve the "working poor" in Petworth. The Washington Free Clinic (WFC), established in 1969, is the oldest free clinic and the first nonprofit health care provider in the District of Columbia. LSS/NCA is delighted to provide operating space for WFC to re-locate from a medically well-served area to the Petworth community.

Sponsorship

LSS/NCA is one of the few region-wide, multi-service agencies in the Metro DC area and has earned regional, and in some cases national, recognition for several program areas: Adoptions/Foster Care, Refugee and Immigrant Services, Mental Health, and Homelessness Prevention Services (Emergency Assistance). We are an accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Children and Families, Inc.

Neighborhood Description

The neighborhood, known as the Petworth area, is located in Ward 4 of the District of Columbia. Georgia Avenue forms the main artery in Petworth and, as such, provides public transportation via bus routes to various parts of the city. In addition, the long-awaited Petworth Metro Station was recently opened six blocks south of the project site. A few miles north of the site, substantial redevelopment is occurring along the Georgia Avenue corridor in Silver Spring as it enters the suburbs. Two drug stores, a large supermarket, a bank, and an auto parts retailer have large new buildings in place.

Site Description

The proposed site for the new Washington Free Clinic (WFC) at 4406 Georgia Avenue, N.W. is on the west side of Georgia Avenue between Allison and Webster Streets in Washington, DC. Excepting this block, the surrounding neighborhood is almost entirely residential. The newly renovated building will include approximately 7,500 s.f. built-out for use by the WFC. The WFC is relocating from its current location in the Columbia Heights neighborhood. The space currently leased by WFC is inadequate to accommodate its growth: the exam rooms are too small and too few, the waiting area and vitals areas are insufficient for privacy and comfort, and the building is not handicapped accessible. The new space will provide more exam rooms of a larger size, private rooms for consultation, a pharmacy, laboratory, separate office and break-rooms for staff, and will meet all requirements for accessibility and handling of medical wastes.

The Clinic delivers health care to low-income, uninsured adults, adolescents and children with an emphasis on patient education, empowerment and disease prevention. The paid staff of 16, along with over 150 active volunteers, support clinic operations that serve over 3,000 patients, providing nearly 8,000 patient encounters annually. The WFC signature programs are pre-natal care and HIV prevention and treatment. In its new, larger space WFC plans to serve even more patients because of the increased number of exam rooms.

BZA
Case No. 16587
Exhibit No. 3

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16587
EXHIBIT NO.3