ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3-C

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS · CLEVELAND PARK · MASSACHUSETTS AVE. HEIGHTS · MCLEAN GARDENS · WOODLEY PARK

2737 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
(202) 232-2232 FAX: 232-0667

Single Member District Commissioners:

01-Cheryl A. Opacinch
02-Alan Blevins
03-Michael V. Molnar
04-Vacant
05-Ann Hume Loikow
06-Jim Evans
07-Lyle Blanchard
08-Rosalyn P. Doggett
09-Ruthanne Miller

OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
00 SEP -8 P4:00

September 5, 2000

Chairman Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board of
Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, N.W., Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Case No. 16604 – Sikh Temple at 3801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Dear Chairman Reid:

Thank you very much for scheduling an expedited hearing on the above-referenced case. At its public meeting on August 28, 2000, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (ANC 3C) unanimously passed the attached resolution that, inter alia, reiterates ANC 3C's view expressed in its June 19th resolution and June 26th letter to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) that the Fairview Heights Neighborhood Association's appeal raises serious concerns that should be considered and addressed by the BZA. As set forth in the attached resolution, the Commission is concerned that the Zoning Administrator's interpretation and application of the zoning regulations governing height and setback limitations in an R-1 District will result in the construction of a building that is out of scale and character with the rest of the neighborhood immediately surrounding it, to the serious detriment of fundamental objectives of zoning policy in the District of Columbia and the Ward 3 Plan in the Comprehensive Plan (i.e. preventing the overcrowding of land and preserving light and air).

Seven Commissioners were present at the time of the vote and five commissioners constitute a quorum for ANC 3C. Proper notice of this meeting was given by ANC 3C. Commissioner Lyle Blanchard, the commissioner for the single member district in which the property is situated, and Ruthanne Miller, the Chair of ANC 3C, or their designee, are authorized to present the attached resolution to the BZA and to testify before the BZA on the issues addressed therein.

ANC 3C greatly appreciates your consideration of our views on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne G. Miller
Chair, ANC 3C

Attachment

BZA
Case No. 16604
Exhibit No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16604
EXHIBIT NO.23

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RESOLUTION OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE SIKH TEMPLE (CASE NO. 16604)

WHEREAS a public hearing on the appeal by the Fairview Heights Neighborhood Association of the issuance of a building permit for the Sikh Temple (case No. 16604) will be held by the Board of Zoning Adjustment (the "BZA") on September 13, 2000.

WHEREAS the Fairview Heights Neighborhood Association has raised serious concerns that the issuance of Permit No. B425220 resulted from an erroneous interpretation of zoning regulations governing height and setback limitations in an R-1 District.

WHEREAS the Zoning Administrator's application of the above-mentioned zoning regulations will result in the construction of a building that is out of scale and character with the rest of the neighborhood immediately surrounding it, to the serious detriment of fundamental objectives of zoning policy in the District of Columbia and the Ward 3 Plan in the Comprehensive Plan (i.e. preventing the overcrowding of land and preserving light and air).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C restates its position that the permit was improperly issued due to lack of proper notice which prevented the community from raising the issues above that are now before the BZA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission authorizes Commissioner Lyle Blanchard, the commissioner for the single member district in which the property is situated, and Ruthanne Miller, the Chair, or their designee to testify on this issue consistent with this resolution and the Commission's earlier resolutions on this issue.

This resolution was unanimously approved by ANC 3C at its meeting on August 28, 2000, at which a quorum, consisting of 5 commissioners, was present.

cc: Mayor Anthony A. Williams
Executive Office of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Michael Johnson, Zoning Administrator
Building and Land Regulation Administration, DCRA
941 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Second Floor, Suite 2500
Washington, D.C. 20002

Sikh Cultural Society, Inc.
Per Gajinder Singh, Board of Directors
4452 Springdale Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Thomas O. Mann
Fairview Heights Neighborhood Association
3108 38th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Chairman Linda W. Cropp
Councilmember Kathy Patterson
Councilmember Phil Mendelson
Councilmember David Catania
Council of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001