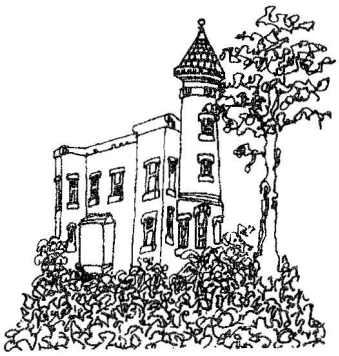


Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

741 Eighth St. SE / Washington, DC 20003-2802 / (202) 675-9340 / Fax (202) 675-9358

July 28, 2000

Jerrily R. Kress, Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Sasha Bruce Youthwork's application for
A special exception for 1022 Maryland Avenue,
NE under Provisions of the DCMR, Title 11,
Section 303.1

Dear Ms. Kress:

I am writing to request your serious consideration for forgiving the fees we are now required to pay and which are associated with our application for a special exception to increase bed space at the Sasha Bruce House from 10 to 15. Sasha Bruce House is the only emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth in the city and the 10 bed limit has proved to be inadequate. Substantially, this is due to the requests from the District's Child and Family Services agency to shelter young abused and neglected youth who do not yet have permanent placements. We also have funding from the Youth Services Administration for the program and then make up the difference in private fund-raising from foundations and individuals.

Under the Board of Zoning Adjustment's Schedule of Fees, in Section 3380.4, an appellant is not required to pay a filing fee if they are an association created for civic purposes and not for profit. Sasha Bruce Youthwork exists to provide service to troubled youth and families and to assist young people in stabilizing their lives, completing school, becoming drug-free, improving their family relations and working toward a productive, contributing future. Our purposes are certainly civic in nature and we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

BZA
Case No. 16622
Exhibit No. 6

A United Way Member Agency

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16622
EXHIBIT NO.6

Additionally, this fee will create a hardship for us. Although we have contracts with two government agencies to provide shelter to young people at 1022 Maryland Avenue, NE, we must raise a significant amount of private money each year to keep the program open. This is necessary because we have committed to be available to young people who are not in any government system but are homeless, abandoned or neglected and need the shelter, protection and guidance we provide. We are the only agency in the city who provides emergency shelter to young people on a 24 hour a day basis. Our budgets are always very tight and the additional cost for the $1200 filing fee will be very difficult for us to come up with without taking it from the program services.

I hope these reasons and the provisions is your Schedule of Fees allow you to forgive the filing fee. If additional information is required, please let me know and I will be glad to provide what you need. Until then, I am

Sincerely,

Deborah Shore

Deborah Shore
Executive Director