1/8/2001

16650

I have been a resident of Columbia Heights, living at 1309 Irving Street for 14 years. During this time I have seen the neighborhood change and go through several stages of transition from bleak times of inactivity to some hope of community development.

The 1300 block of Irving and Kenyon Streets NW at present has 4 houses that are dedicated to social service organizations that run full time residential programs from these facilities. These properties are 1315 Irving Street NW (a home for young women), 3112 13th Street NW (a home for wards of the state and severely handicapped children), 1300 Kenyon Street NW (a home for young women) and 1308 Kenyon Street NW (a residence for individuals recovering from substance abuse). Two of these services have been in operation since I moved to the neighborhood and two have begun operating within the last 5 years. With these four social services operating on our block we have more than our share of CBRF properties. All of these residences are within 500 feet of the Church of Christ. Our block is over-saturated with these facilities and should not have any more.

The Church of Christ and properties belonging to them have been my neighbor during this time and my experience has not been a positive one. I felt that the care facilities for the elderly and disabled operated at 1305 -1307 Irving Street NW were poorly staffed with untrained personnel, not kept up to safety and health codes and did not provide an adequate level of care for their residents. Towards the end of these facilities operations they were troubled with alcohol abuse, prostitution and in their closing weeks fires.

I would like to see the Church of Christ become involved in Columbia Heights more than they have been in the past and I feel the best way to do this is for the Church organization to help the existing social service organizations that are already in existence in our neighborhood, to responsibly develop the other properties it has acquired as a non-profit on Irving and Kenyon Streets and be responsible to residents of Columbia Heights in building a strong community.

Opening another CBRF, residential center or youth center on a block that is already over-saturated with social service programs is not responsible development to the residents and the community of Columbia Heights.

Andrew Krieger
1309 Irving Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20010

BZA
Case No. 16650
Exhibit No. 31

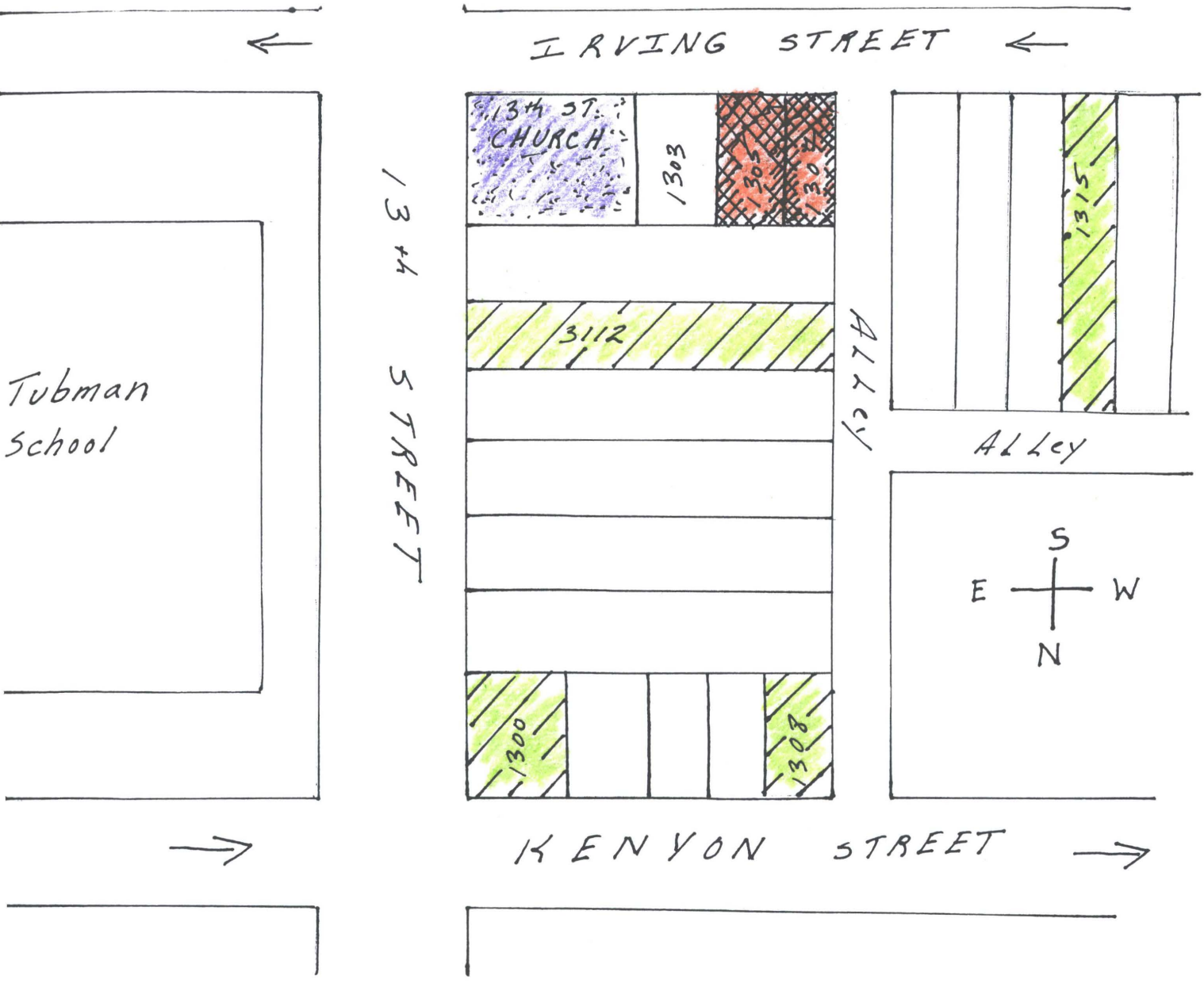
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16650
EXHIBIT NO.31

The enclosed map shows the East end of the Irving and Kenyon Streets bordered by 13th Street. This map shows the location of the Southwest Church of Christ on 13th / Irving Street and the existing social programs that exist within 500 feet of the Church.

Please note:

The Church is colored purple
Existing dwellings housing social programs (1315 Irving Street, 3112 13th Street, 1300 Kenyon Street and 1308 Kenyon Street) are colored green
The proposed Community Center (1305-1307 Irving Street) is colored red

Please note that Irving and Kenyon Streets are major east /west traffic feeds and that the proposed Community Center is on the already congested Irving Street route.


IRVING STREET
13th ST. CHURCH
1303
1305
1307
1315
3112
ALLEY
13th STREET
Tubman School
ALLEY
S
E
W
N
1300
1308
KENYON STREET

1/9/2001

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To: Ms. Shelia Cross Reid
Mr. Robert Sockwell
Mr. Rodney L. Moulden
Ms. Anne Mr. Renshaw
Ms. Jerrily R. Kress

I hereby submit to the Board of Zoning the following written statement addressing case:16650 - Application of the Southwest Church of Christ, Inc., seeking an exception under subsection 334.1 to establish a Community Service Center for a community residential facility center to support individuals and their families in an R-4 District at premises 1305-1307 Irving Street NW (Square 2848, Lot 69).

Please enter this written documentation into the Board of Zoning file 16650.

I attended the hearing on January 9th and I thank the Board for ordering a continuance on this matter. As a member of the community I feel that the Southwest Church of Christ has not consulted the community of its intentions of 1305-1307 Irving St. NW (Square 2848, Lot 69). On a block that already has four dwellings zoned as CBRF residences the proposal put forward by the Southwest Church of Christ, Inc,. is asking a great deal of a community already has its share of these service centers. There are many questions on this issue.

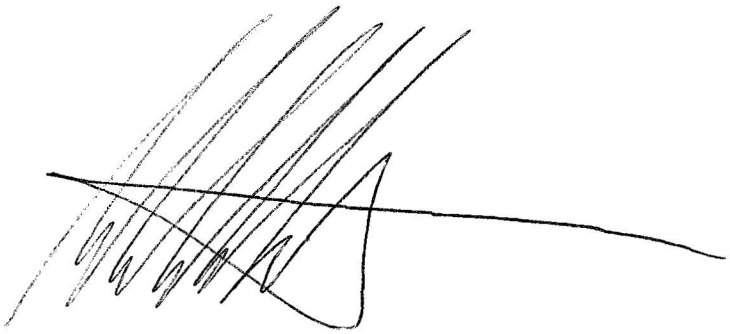
There were several misleading statements made by the representative of the Southwest Church of Christ, Inc. during the meeting of January 9th. In asking for a quick passage of their exemption a strain on the costs of heating these properties was mentioned - it should be noted that the community has had a tremendous strain on it also in that the church was first negotiating to sell these properties - then changed is mind. Also the church has acquired 6 properties on Irving Street and 13th Street that have remained vacant with no progress made towards renovations in 2 years. The community has bore the burden of these actions stalling yet further a revitalization of our area. Many of us wonder with languishing vacant properties how the church proposes to take on another project in the community?

If the Church is strained to pay fuel costs on these properties while the community is informed it can drain the pipes in these locations and save on their gas bill - there is a full time caretaker living on these premises at present, they are not totally vacant as indicated in testimony.

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Our community has many questions on this issue. We look forward to a dialogue with the Southwest Church of Christ for clarification of their proposal and an open discussion on the future neighborhood development of Columbia Heights, the role of the Church in this development and the concerns of the residents.

Thank You.



A.H. Krieger
1309 Irving Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20010