3/21/01

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To: Ms. Shelia Cross Reid
Mr. Robert Sockwell
Mr. Rodney L. Moulden
Ms. Anne 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 in an R-4 District at premises 1305-1307 Irving Street NW (Square 2848, Lot 69).

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

A meeting of the ANC board of district 1A was held at Tubman Elementary School on the evening of 3/14/01. Approximately 80 residents of Columbia Heights were in attendance. At this meeting the Southwest Church of Christ, Inc. presented its plan to establish a Community Service Center at 1305-1307 Irving Street NW (Square 2848, Lot 69).

Residents at this ANC meeting expressed strong opposition to the proposal put forth by the Southwest Church of Christ to establish a Community Service Center at 1305-1307 Irving Street NW (Square 2848, Lot 69). Residents responded to the proposal with some of the following questions.

1. Many residents were completely uninformed of the plans by the Southwest Church of Christ to establish a Community Service Center. The letter of March 19, 2001 from attorneys Barbara Alexander and Mel Myers representing the Southwest Church of Christ erroneously states that residents had been notified of the proposed center. Most residents never received any notice or were contacted by the church for their input on a program that will have a direct impact on their community.

2. Residents pointed out that on the east end of Irving, Kenyon, and 13th Street there are already 4 homes dedicated to social service programs/residential centers within 500 feet of the Southwest Church of Christ.

3. Columbia Heights is already doing more than its share in providing facilities for social programs and that the density of these in our area far outnumbers any other in the city.

BZA
Case No. 16650
Exhibit No. 36

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16650
EXHIBIT NO.36

4. The Southwest Church of Christ has not had any role in helping to shape the neighborhood of Columbia Heights. The majority of its participants are not residents of Columbia Heights or the District of Columbia. The Church has considered relocating in the not to distant past.

5. Residents were surprised to learn that 8 parking spaces would be allocated to the facility (1 space for every 1,000 square feet of facility) - 8 spaces removed from the use of residents on Irving Street that already has residents struggling for parking on a major east bound traffic feed. This statistic has changed again, at the ANC meeting on 3/21 attorneys for the Southwest Church of Christ indicated that the program would be entitled to 13 parking spaces on Irving Street - the entire legal day parking on the north side of the street is 28 parking spots.

Parking on Irving Street is already an issue of concern to residents, there is not enough parking at this time. At present 4 homes are being renovated on the street, 16 condominiums at the northwest corner of Irving Street have been sold and will be moved into this spring. These developments will put a further strain on the already existing parking squeeze being experienced by residents.

6. Residents found the program outlined by the Southwest Church of Christ that would be administered at the proposed facility undefined, vague, unfocused and much to extensive for the limited area of the properties. Questions asked by residents to these points were answered by a church member or lawyers representing the church in vague statements which only raised more questions about the staffing and hours of operation of the proposed Community Center.

7. For residents attending both the ANC meeting of 3/14/01 and a community meeting sponsored by the Thirteenth Street Church of Christ on 3/1/01 information was presented that was contradictory and confusing. (At the meeting of 3/1/01 a church spokesman remarked that the program as proposed by the Church would only serve children from the Columbia Village complex, this approached was reversed at the meeting of 3/14/01.)

8. Residents pointed out that in the week of 3/1/01 a new youth center opened in Columbia Heights 3 blocks from the proposed site of the facility proposed by the Thirteenth Street Church of Christ.

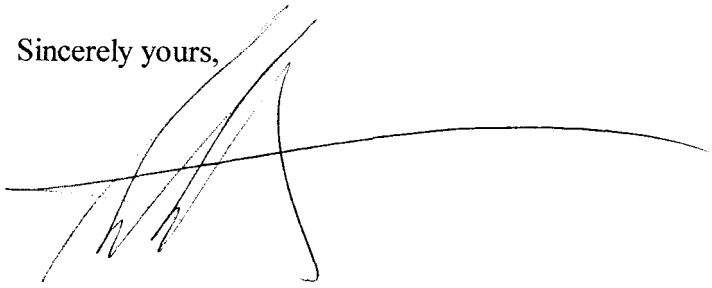
9. The recent renovation of the Boys and Girls Club on 14th NW, with extensive facilities, a professional staff and programs open to all children of Columbia Heights was mentioned by residents as a program already in existence serving the community of Columbia Heights.

10. Other Community/Youth programs and faith based organizations operating in Columbia Heights expressed dismay at the approach of the Thirteenth Street Church of Christ in that they were not contacted in an effort to join forces and work for the good of all people of the community and not the separate agenda of one organization.

11. Residents are asking if their is a plan, standards, or a mission statement to monitor, track and insure that neighborhoods in the District of Columbia can develop with the interests and concerns of its citizens - that they are informed on issues that impact their lives and are given a role in determining the character of their communities.

A petition is circulating the neighborhood and will be submitted to the Board of Zoning at the April 3rd hearing on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew Krieger