MINA VEAZIE
1330 IRVING STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20010 • 202.232.2619/232.0043

January 9, 2001

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suite 220, 441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Application of Southwest Church of Christ, Inc. pursuant to 11 DCMR 3104, for a special 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, N.W. (Square 2848, Lot 69).

With a resounding 'NO", the owners and residents of 1330 Irving Street speak to the Board. We have found the Southwest Church of Christ one of the worst neighbors on the block. We base our conclusion on the following:

1) The property proposed for exception is already in substantial need of renovation and repair because the Church was negligent in its management of the facility which until recently housed disabled;

2) When the block was being overrun by drug dealers, prostitutes and arsonists, the Church was negligent in working with the homeowners and residents of the block to organize against the illegal and dangerous activities. Neighbors asked repeatedly for their help, but none came;

3) When youth began to engage in violent activity including shooting and killing each other, the church did not offer any outreach or other activities to stop the violence. Some youth begged for their help, but none came;

4) When senior citizens and others were experiencing failing health and their families were overwhelmed with the requirements for their care, the Church did not respond with any acts of kindness;

5) When homeless and near homeless men sought to rebuild their dignity doing small jobs on our block, directly in front of the Church, it is not the Church, but rather others on the block who respond in a Christian like manner;

6) Two similar such facilities already exist in the block, the Church has not reached out to partner with these entities to serve the human needs there; and finally

6) Southwest Church of Christ, Inc owns the development rights to numerous pieces of City property that have not yet been developed----no obvious signs of work have been observed.

BZA
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Exhibit No. 45

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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CASE NO.16650
EXHIBIT NO.45

Further, though people were evicted from the properties, none of those individuals were assisted with their relocation and are not being accommodated for return after the proposed renovation.

Under no circumstances could I in good conscience support this "Church" in its quest for exemption for it has not shown either the will or the capacity to serve the community in any manner consistent with the teachings of the Prophet it purports to espouse.

Sincerely,

Mina and Shayna Veazie
1330 Irving Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20010
202.232.0043