District of Columbia Baptist Convention

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Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director/Minister

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW • Suite 210-S
Washington DC 20001

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in support of the application (# 16826) by City Gate to allow it to conduct church programs at 5917 16th Street NW. City Gate is a faith-based not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and its member congregations. The programs engaged in are organized exclusively for the social welfare of the community through (a) providing mentoring, after-school tutoring, and ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to members of the community, and (b) recruiting, training, and deploying volunteers to work in various social ministries throughout the city. City Gate specifically is responsible for the volunteer coordination ministries and programs of the DC Baptist Convention.

Lynn Bergfalk, the Executive Director of City Gate, was for many years the Senior Minister of Calvary Baptist Church, a historic downtown church in our Convention. City Gate was created in October 2000 by Calvary Baptist to "continue and extend" the extensive network of church-related community programs developed by Calvary. Currently City Gate is involved with programs at Calvary (downtown), the Johenning Baptist Community Center (SE), and Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church (NW), all part of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, in addition to helping place church volunteers at other sites in the city.

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention embraces 140 congregations which reflect the racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity of our nation''s capital. Often individual congregations need assistance in carrying out mission programs or in accessing and utilizing available volunteers. City Gate is involved with multiple sites, with programs specifically tailored to the needs and context of these different neighborhoods.

City Gate's application to the BZA for church programs at 5917 16th St NW is important in terms of its partnership with the DC Baptist Convention and our churches. In addition to several onsite neighborhood programs, this facility is needed for meetings and training for church volunteers, as well as providing some accommodations for both transient and long-term volunteers. I believe the church programs that would be conducted at this site would greatly benefit the community, while fitting well with the character of the 16th Street Heights neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Haggray

BZA
Case No. 16826
Exhibit No. 27

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16826
EXHIBIT NO.27