Children's National Medical Center®

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September 25, 2003

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

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Re: ***BZA Application No. 17016***
65 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Dear Mr. Griffis:

I am writing in support of the application filed on behalf of the District of Columbia by Safe Shores, The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center, seeking relief from the rear yard and roof structure enclosure and set back requirements of the zoning regulations. As part of the multidisciplinary team ""MDT") that will occupy the building, we are very excited about the Children's Advocacy Center's opportunity to relocate.

Given the inadequate space of Safe Shore's current location and recognizing the increasing need for the services provided there, members of the MDT, which include the Metropolitan Police Department, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency, D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and Children's National Medical Center, eagerly await the opportunity to have more space to carry out the critical work that we do. Though some members of the MDT are unable to co-locate completely, the proposed project will allow the MDT to provide their individual services in a more efficient way.

In addition to offering the capacity to co-locate the MDT team members at the Gales School, the property meets the needs of Safe Shores and the MDT with regard to its close proximity to the D.C. Superior Court. Most importantly, the expanded space will allow Safe Shores and the members of the MDT it coordinates to reach more of the District's children in need of Safe Shores' services, and the services of its team members than its current location permits.

The proposed project is one that will have a tremendous benefit not only to the neighborhood, but to the District as a whole. The subject site is currently in need of repair and renovation. The grounds surrounding the property are run-down and littered with trash, resulting in an eyesore for the community. The District's use of the property for its child advocacy center is a true public/private partnership that will result in the improvement of the subject site and will offer a service greatly needed by the District to protect its most innocent victims, children who have been abused. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

Respectfully,

Allison L. McCarley, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Children's National Medical Center

BZA
Case No. 17016
Exhibit No. 27

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17016
EXHIBIT NO. 27