GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL



Corporation Counsel

D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
2003 SEP 30 PM 3:52

September 30, 2003

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Room 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

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.

Safe Shores serves as the coordinating facility for the District's Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach to investigations of sexual and physical abuse of children. The Office of the Corporation Counsel, along with the Metropolitan Police Department, the Child and Family Services Agency, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and Children's National Medical Center, is a member of that MDT. Safe Shores' current space is inadequate to handle the large demand that is placed on the MDT. The proposed project will allow the MDT to be located together, thus providing for greater efficiency of services and communication.

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 because of its close proximity to the D.C. Superior Court. Most importantly, the expanded space will allow Safe Shores and the members of the MDT to reach more of the District's children who are in need of their services.

The proposed project will provide a tremendous benefit to the neighborhood, and 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—it is an eyesore for the community. The District's proposed use of the property for its child advocacy center is a public/private partnership that will result in the improvement of the subject site, while allowing the MDT to better help the vulnerable children who rely on the services of Safe Shores and the entire MDT. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

BZA
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17016
EXHIBIT NO. 28
Case No. 17016
Exhibit No. 28

I appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. SPAGNOLETTI
Corporation Counsel