Rebuilding Neighborhoods Through Affordable Homeownership
MANNA

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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To: District of Columbia Office of Zoning
From: Meade Hanna, Potter's House
Re: BZA Application Square 2579 Lot 801
Address: 1658 & 1660 Columbia Road, NW

c.) Detailed statement of the existing and intended use of such building or part of building.
The members of the Church of the Saviour opened the Potter's House as a coffeehouse and restaurant in 1960. Six different mission groups or volunteer groups would prepare and serve food and host customers each night of the week. The intention was to be a "tavern church" but without alcohol. Discussions ranging from individual salvation to the issues surrounding the Vietnam war took place around each table. Our operation continued 6 nights a week until the assassination of Martin Luther King where we closed for a time but reopened for daytime and three nights a week. From that point forward we began discussing how we could address the healing of the oppressed in Adams Morgan. Around our tables, ministries such as Jubilee Housing, Jubilee Jobs, Christ House, Columbia Road Health Services, Good Shepherd Ministries, Sarah's Circle, Samaritan Inns, Joseph's House, Miriam's House have been birthed into existence.

We continue to be a tavern church (still without the alcohol) today with discussion tables each day at 12:30 around the transformative church, racial reconciliation, clergy support, etc. We now have a bookstore and host people from all over the world who have read our story and want to talk more about taking our structure to other places. We continue to birth new missions such as Life Pathways, Sign of Jonah Acupuncture Clinic, a lobby group for Children's Defense Fund, Bethany House, etc.

Currently our hours of operation are 11 to 3 PM, Monday through Thursday and 11 to 3 PM and 7 to 11 PM on Fridays. During that time we operate as a full service restaurant. We offer our kitchen and restaurant space to community groups and churches on the weekends on a sporadic and regular basis as well as on weekday nights. We have two faith community groups using the facility on Sunday morning and night. Three other faith groups use the facility Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday night with Good Shepherd and sometimes the Servant Leadership School using our facility on Tuesday nights. Most every group utilizes our catering.

Recently we have hosted groups from Pretoria, South Africa, several student groups on spring break, and a Fannie Mae group of potential homebuyers. The homebuyers group needed more confidentiality and the others really needed more workshop space. Jubilee Housing and Good Shepherd need our space on a regular basis for lunches and activities but the main restaurant area is too public and distracting. We have also had to turn down other community groups who wanted meeting space and catering because we did not have adequate space.

Another main goal of this addition would be to make the rear of our property more attractive. By adding an addition this space would become a usable and safe part of Fuller Street. Currently this rear space is frequented by people loitering and has dark pockets. The addition would define the space and represent a commitment to bettering the community. It will enable a person walking down Fuller Street to be only 13" below the floor level, rather than the current grade being 6'-0" above the sidewalk. This improved façade will be beneficial not only to the Potter's house, but also to the neighboring properties.

BZA
Case No. 17178
Exhibit No. 3

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17178
EXHIBIT NO. 3