

February 26, 2017

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustments,

I live within 200 feet of the Rhode Island short term family housing proposed site. I oppose the zoning special exceptions and variances requested by the DC Department of General Services in case 19452 for the 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE proposed temporary homeless shelter.

The shelter is far too large for the site. It does not fit with the neighborhood of small single family homes. It goes against the city's comprehensive plan and the Upper Northeast Small Area plan for development along Rhode Island Avenue NE. My house will be in its direct shadow for most of the morning and I don't want to lose my light.

There is not enough parking here for so many people. The city says that homeless people don't have cars. At a neighborhood meeting this past week a formerly homeless person testified that many homeless people have cars and in fact that is sometimes all they have left when they lose their homes. Therefore I think the city is just saying that homeless have no cars because they want BZA to approve this special exception for parking regardless of the reality.

While I support homeless families being sheltered in my neighborhood, I also support the smart development of my neighborhood and oppose the special exceptions and variances proposed because they are incongruous with the surrounding neighborhood and detrimental to the neighborhood. The city has failed to demonstrate that there is no better alternative to this massive shelter plan and has been dismissive of proposed alternatives brought forth by my community.

Please uphold the zoning regulations for 1700 Rhode Island Avenue NE and ask the city to present a shelter plan that is supportive of both the homeless families and the surrounding neighborhood, and meets all zoning requirements.

Sincerely,



Afiong Aka
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