



Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember, Ward 4
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations

Committee Member
Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

March 23, 2018

Frederick L. Hill
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Hill,

I am writing to express my support for Crown Bakery at 5409 Georgia Ave, NW, owned by Mr. Trevor Selman, in BZA Case #19724. If granted, the requested exception would significantly enhance the quality of retail options on the 5400 block of Georgia Avenue, NW. The planned expansion would improve an establishment that already contributes greatly to the vibrancy of the neighborhood and has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a positive presence in the community.

Mr. Selman and Crown Bakery seek to expand the business by providing dining space on a roof deck, adding a unique and welcome amenity to the neighborhood. The fire code requires two egresses from the roof dining area. One egress, a staircase inside the building, leading to the street, now exists. A second egress must be built as an exterior staircase at the back of the building, leading to the backyard and alley. The safety code requires the base of the exterior stairway to rest 15 feet from the center of the alley. The backyard of the building cannot accommodate a 15-foot distance between a staircase base to the center of the alley. At most a staircase could rest 9 feet, 3 inches from the center of the alley. A zoning exception is the only way Mr. Selman can complete this project, which enjoys the support of the majority of immediately adjacent neighbors and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D.

As Ward 4 and the District continue to attract more residents, it is important that we also allow our commercial establishments the flexibility required to expand and meet the growing needs of our residents and visitors. Since opening, Crown Bakery has remained a beloved institution, and the requested exception would only improve the character of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 724-8052.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon T. Todd".

Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember, Ward 4