



October 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

DC LISC supports DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate the SAFE Space crisis housing program to **101 Q Street Northeast**, Washington DC.

DC SAFE's crisis housing program is a vital resource for survivors of domestic violence. SAFE Space is the only housing facility in DC capable of placing survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future. We recognize the critical need for these services in Washington, DC, and support DC SAFE in seeking a **special exemption** from the Board of Zoning Adjustment to use the site as an emergency shelter.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a national community development organization, with DC as one of the flagship offices and a 35 year legacy. Established in 1982, DC LISC has invested in more than 8,300 units of affordable housing, and in health clinics, theaters, community centers, and retail shopping centers throughout the District of Columbia. We work every day to help create healthy and resilient DC neighborhoods that are good places for low- and moderate-income Washingtonians to live, work, raise children, and to conduct business.

We share a goal with DC SAFE of preventing families from becoming homeless due to abuse, and we recognize the potential of the expanded SAFE Space program to address violence and homelessness through effective crisis intervention. In further recognition of the importance of this project, LISC is also providing grant funding to DC SAFE to support the Safe Space expansion.

We are proud partners in the effort to create a safer District with community partners like DC SAFE.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Savoy Court Condominium Association

November 8, 2017

To whom it may concern:

The Savoy Court Condominium Association has been asked to provide this letter of recommendation about SAFE's management of its domestic violence program. Since 2011, SAFE has operated its domestic violence shelter within our building, licensing approximately 20 percent units of the 62 total units. Savoy Court is a very well maintained building that consistently commands some of the highest condominium sales prices in Congress Heights.

SAFE is very responsive. They have an onsite office, have a great relationship with the police, and provide a security guard for evenings and weekends.

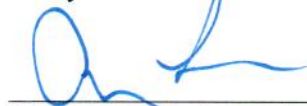
Over the six years the program has operating within Savoy Court we can make the following statements:

- The program is well managed by SAFE's onsite staff.
- SAFE shelter staff will remove clients and find more suitable accommodations if rules are broken such as having guests or violating our house rules.
- Clients are not allowed to have vehicles. There has been no additional parking pressure for our building.
- Sales for the building do not seem to be affected sales prices of the units. There were six sales in 2016 and two so far this year.

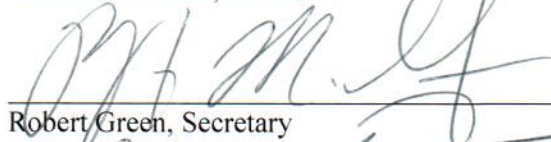
We do look forward to having Savoy Court a 100% owner occupied building again but SAFE's program assisted our association when we needed it and quickly found ways to respond to our legitimate concerns over property value, safety and maintenance of the common areas.

Sincerely,

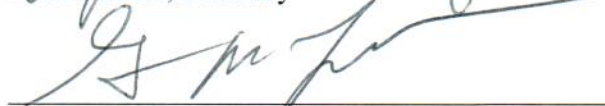
Savoy Court Condominium Association Board



Amanda Lumnah, President



Robert Green, Secretary



Garrette Ferguson, Vice President

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES AND JUSTICE GRANTS



April 19, 2017

Natalia Otero
Executive Director
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (DC SAFE)
1 St Matthews Ct.
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Otero:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its SAFE Space program. The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants has been a long-time partner of DC SAFE and can attest to the critical and life-saving work of the SAFE Space program.

The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants' (OVSJG) mission is to develop, fund, and coordinate programs that improve public safety; enhance the administration of justice; and create systems of care for crime victims, youth, and their families in the District. In order to accomplish its mission, OVSJG coordinates and funds community-based and District agency services for victims of crime. In Fiscal Year 2016, funding from OVSJG provided for services to over 16,000 victims of crime in the District.

The scale and costs of domestic violence for our community is staggering. OVSJG recognizes that last year, DC SAFE received over 12,000 calls for domestic violence crisis on its 24-hour crisis response line, and assisted over 8,000 individual survivors in creating safety plans and identifying tangible resources to assist them in obtaining safety. SAFE Space has been a vital resource for these survivors, as it is the only housing facility in the city capable of placing domestic violence survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, thereby increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future.

OVSJG has been working with DC SAFE to acquire property at 101 Q Street Northeast to expand and relocate the SAFE Space program to a more stable home, while providing additional on-site services for survivors and expanding the capacity of the program. DC SAFE will use this property to develop a new multi-use building, including providing temporary crisis housing for families affected by domestic violence while they recover and heal. This effort is essential to OVSJG's



commitment to creating a continuum of care for domestic violence victims; DC SAFE is an essential member of the domestic violence victim service community and SAFE Space is central to a functioning housing system for domestic violence survivors.

This project furthers our shared goal of preventing families from becoming homeless due to abuse, and capitalizes on the potential of this program to address violence and homelessness through effective crisis intervention. We support DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its SAFE Space program, and are proud partners in the effort to create a safer stronger DC with community partners like DC SAFE.

Thank you for the work you do to support our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle M. Garcia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michelle M. Garcia
Director



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MAY 10 2017

Ms. Natalia Otero
Executive Director
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (DC SAFE)
#1 Saint Matthews Court, Northwest
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Otero,

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is committed to reducing intrafamily as well as intimate partner violence in the District of Columbia through a combination of law enforcement intervention, community services, and interagency collaboration. As a partnering agency to DC SAFE, MPD recognizes the importance of the program. MPD officers routinely make referrals to DC SAFE for clients with immediate housing needs. MPD understands that the victims housed in SAFE shelters are more likely to be available to detectives and able to participate through case disposition. These victims are also less likely to report new violence.

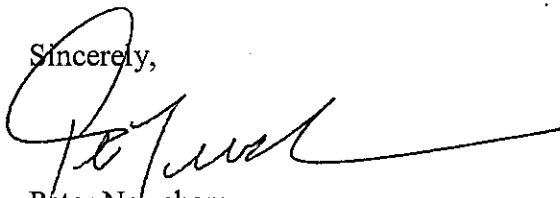
MPD understands the scale and costs of domestic violence in our community. MPD realizes that last year alone, DC SAFE received over 12,000 calls, in reference to domestic violence on its 24-hour crisis response line as well as providing assistance for over 8,000 individual survivors in creating safety plans and identifying tangible resources to assist them in obtaining safety. MPD recognizes that DC SAFE's crisis housing program, SAFE Space, has been a vital resource for these survivors, as it is the only housing facility in the city capable of placing domestic violence survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future. MPD has made use of DC SAFE services in the past and knows the positive impact they have on a surviving victim.

MPD is aware that DC SAFE is seeking to acquire property at 101 Q Street, Northeast. This will expand and relocate the SAFE Space program to a more stable home, while providing additional on-site services for survivors as well as expanding the capacity of the program. MPD understand DC SAFE will use this property to develop a new multi-use building, including providing temporary crisis housing for families affected by domestic violence as well as offices to support DC SAFE operations. MPD recognizes that DC SAFE is an essential member of the domestic violence victim service community and that SAFE Space is central to a functioning housing system for domestic violence survivors. MPD appreciates the shared goal of preventing families from becoming homeless due to abuse, and the potential of this program to address violence and homelessness through effective crisis intervention.

Therefore, MPD supports DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its SAFE Space program. MPD is proud to partner with DC SAFE in the effort to reduce domestic and intimate partner violence.

Thank you for the work you do to support the residents of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Newsham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Newsham
Chief of Police



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Room 6680
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-879-1700 Office
202-879-4829 Fax



April 28, 2017

Natalia Otero, Executive Director
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (DC SAFE)
1 St Matthews Ct
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Otero:

I am writing to offer the support of the DC Superior Court for DC SAFE's efforts to provide additional short-term residences and on-site support services for families at risk of becoming homeless as a result of abuse in their homes. The DC Superior Court partners with DC SAFE at our two Domestic Violence Intake Centers. DC SAFE provides assistance to litigants applying for Civil Protection Orders, accompanies them to court hearings, helps them get pro bono counsel, and provides crisis shelter.

We understand that DC SAFE is seeking to acquire property at 101 Q Street Northeast in Washington, DC, and will use this property to develop a new multi-use building, including 30 temporary safe housing units for families affected by domestic violence as well as offices to support those families. DC SAFE's crisis housing program, SAFE Space, is a vital resource as it is capable of placing domestic violence survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future. This project will fulfill a need for vulnerable families in our community, and the construction of this facility will benefit the Eckington/NoMa neighborhood.

Superior Court is proud of its long-term partnership with DC SAFE at our Intake Centers, and the DC Courts are pleased to support DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its SAFE Space program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anne B. Wicks".

Anne B. Wicks

Executive Officer, DC Courts

c: Chief Judge Robert Morin



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

Charles Allen
Councilmember, Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety

Committee Member
Business and Economic Development
Education
Transportation and the Environment

June 13, 2017

Natalia Otero
Executive Director
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (DC SAFE)
1 St. Matthews Court
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Otero:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of DC SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its crisis housing program, SAFE Space. As Chair of the Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, I have oversight of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants ("OVSJG"). Therefore, I am familiar with the critical and much needed work of your organization as an OVSJG grantee.

I also understand the scale and costs of domestic violence in our community. Last year alone, DC SAFE received more than 12,000 calls for domestic violence crisis on its 24 hour crisis response line and assisted more than 8,000 individual survivors in creating safety plans and identifying resources to assist them in obtaining safety. Moreover, SAFE Space has been a vital resource for these survivors, as it is the only housing facility in the city capable of placing domestic violence survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future.

Moreover, I understand that DC SAFE is seeking to acquire property at 101 Q Street Northeast to expand and relocate the SAFE Space program to a more stable home, while providing additional on-site services for survivors and expanding the capacity of the program. This property will be used to develop a new multi-use building, including providing temporary crisis housing for families affected by domestic violence while they recover and heal, as well as offices to support those families.

DC SAFE is an essential member of the domestic violence victim service community, and SAFE Space is central to a functioning housing system for domestic violence survivors. I support your efforts to expand and relocate the SAFE Space program and am proud to partner in the effort to create a safer District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Allen".

Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember
Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General

ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE



April 28, 2017

Ms. Natalia Otero
Executive Director
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (DC SAFE)
1 St Matthews Court
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Otero:

I am the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and I am writing to provide my support for DC SAFE's efforts to acquire property for a new shelter for victims of domestic violence. As you know, this office's Domestic Violence Section works closely with your organization to assist victims of domestic violence, and we fully support your efforts for a new shelter to help even more victims.

This office understands the scale and costs of domestic violence for our community. This office understands that last year, DC SAFE received over 12,000 calls for domestic violence crisis on its 24 hour crisis response line, and assisted over 8,000 individual survivors in creating safety plans and identifying tangible resources to assist them in obtaining safety. This office understands that DC SAFE's crisis housing program, SAFE Space, has been a vital resource for these survivors, as it is the only housing facility in the city capable of placing domestic violence survivors in a safe apartment within an hour of a violent incident, increasing their chances for a safe, healthy, and stable future. We have made use of your services in the past and know the impact that they have.

This office understands that DC SAFE is seeking to acquire property at 101 Q Street Northeast, Washington, DC, to expand and relocate the SAFE Space program to a more stable home, while providing additional on-site services for survivors and expanding the capacity of the program. We understand DC SAFE will use this property to develop a new multi-use building, including providing temporary crisis housing for families affected by domestic violence while they recover and heal, as well as offices to support those families. We recognize that DC SAFE is an essential member of the domestic violence victim service community, and that SAFE Space is central to a functioning housing system for domestic violence survivors. We recognize our shared goal of preventing families from becoming homeless due to abuse, and the potential of this program to address violence and homelessness through effective crisis intervention. We support DC

Ms. Natalia Otero
April 28, 2017
Page 2

SAFE's efforts to expand and relocate its SAFE Space program, and are proud partners in the effort to create a safer District with community partners like DC SAFE.

Thank you for the work you do to support our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Karl A. Racine', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Karl A. Racine
Attorney General for the District of Columbia



Michelle Garcia
Director
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
441 4th St NW 727N
Washington, DC 20001

November 8, 2016

Dear Ms. Garcia,

I'm writing to inform you of our support for DC SAFE's application for funding to acquire property to develop a crisis housing facility for high risk survivors of intimate partner violence. DC SAFE is a close partner of Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) and has been a leader in providing comprehensive crisis intervention services to survivors of domestic violence in DC for over 10 years.

Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services.

DC SAFE currently operates SAFE Space, an innovative housing program that provides apartment-style housing to survivors of domestic violence and their families, and is available to place survivors in housing 24 hours a day, every day of the week. This critical housing intervention is vital to survivor safety and improving survivor engagement with a range of systems of care. Relocating the SAFE Space project to a larger and more sustainable stand-alone facility will allow this program to continue to support survivors in DC in the future, while expanding the capacity and depth of those services.

DC SAFE is currently attempting to acquire the property located at the 101 Q St NE address in Washington, DC. As stated in their proposal, this property will allow the construction of a facility with up to 43,000 square feet of space, including up to 17,000 square feet of space dedicated to offices for service providers. DC SAFE has been a close partner of NVRDC and we work collaboratively as part of a continuum of crisis intention service providers in DC. We support the goal of co-located offices with DC SAFE to ensure our continued collaboration and integration of services. If DC SAFE is successful in obtaining funding, acquiring the property, and constructing the new facility, NVRDC would be strongly interested in attempting to lease satellite office space with DC SAFE in the facility.

We hope you will strongly consider DC SAFE's application for funding, and approve this vital project for survivors in DC. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

6856 Eastern Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20012

202.742.1727
www.nvrdc.org

reach out. rise up.



Sincerely,

Nikki Charles
Co-Executive Director

6856 Eastern Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20012

202.742.1727
www.nvrdc.org

reach out. rise up.



Michelle Garcia
Director
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
441 4th St NW 727N
Washington, DC 20001

November 8, 2016

Dear Ms. Garcia,

I'm writing to inform you of our support for DC SAFE's application for funding to acquire property to develop a crisis housing facility for high-risk survivors of intimate partner violence. DC SAFE is a close partner of DC Forensic Nurse Examiners and has been a leader in providing comprehensive crisis intervention services to survivors of domestic violence in DC for over 10 years.

DCFNE is a non-profit organization whose mission is to lessen the impact of violence in the District. Our forensic nurses respond to the hospital 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide medical forensic services to victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and life-threatening physical assault. As a victim services provider in the District, we are acutely aware of the need for a collaborative and comprehensive response to intimate partner violence and the need for access to services for all victims of crime in DC. We work closely with advocates from DC SAFE to ensure that our patients are connected with vital resources in the immediate aftermath of an act of intimate partner violence and we rely on DC SAFE's on-call advocates to provide high quality services to the vulnerable population that we serve.

DC SAFE currently operates SAFE Space, an innovative housing program that provides apartment-style housing to survivors of domestic violence and their families, and is available to place survivors in housing 24 hours a day, every day of the week. This critical housing intervention is vital to survivor safety and improving survivor engagement with a range of systems of care. Relocating the SAFE Space project to a larger and more sustainable stand-alone facility will allow this program to continue to support survivors in DC in the future, while expanding the capacity and depth of those services.



DC SAFE is currently attempting to acquire the property located at the 101 Q St NE address in Washington, DC. As stated in their proposal, this property will allow the construction of a facility with up to 43,000 square feet of space, including up to 17,000 square feet of space dedicated to offices for service providers. DC SAFE has been a close partner of DCFNE, and we work collaboratively as part of a continuum of crisis intention service providers in DC. We support the goal of co-located offices with DC SAFE to ensure our continued collaboration and integration of services. If DC SAFE is successful in obtaining funding, acquiring the property, and constructing the new facility, DCFNE would be strongly interested in attempting to lease office space with DC SAFE in the facility.

We hope you will strongly consider DC SAFE's application for funding, and approve this vital project for survivors in DC. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely



Colleen Gallopin
Executive Director

