

**The Downtown Cluster of Congregations
1313 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005**

November 9, 2018

Chairman Frederick Hill & Members
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW #200S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **BZA Case No. 19823**

Dear Chairman Hill and Members,

I am writing to express strong support for the variances requested in this application, as the variances are relatively minor in a matter that would help to achieve a project of significant benefit for Tenleytown and the city as a whole.

For the last number of years amidst the rising need for assisting the city's aging population to find suitable, safe, and accessible housing to meet their needs, this agency has sought to support Senior Villages and other measures. Many local congregations have sought ways to either provide housing or other services to the city's large and growing senior population. This project will **deliver some 85 plus units of housing as part of a Continuing Care Retirement Community**. That is exactly the type of development needed by the city to help its seniors and their family members at the moment to stay in their neighborhoods and close to family and friends.

I have seen families here in the city not having enough housing and care choices such that a loved family member has sought housing and care in suburban locations - often a significant travel burden for family and friends who visit on a daily basis. Families have enough burdens already from aging challenges, having choices for residential options in their own neighborhood or city can be a tremendous relief.

I note some of the very positive amenities being provided that will hopefully minimize the project's impact on neighbors - such as on-site parking for over 5 dozen cars and a 36 foot green buffer with adjacent residential properties to the east when only 8 feet is required. The development's close proximity to both metro and bus lines can also hopefully mean family, friends and staff can be utilizing public transportation as they go to and from the project.

I see this type of project as a "win-win-win"adding an option so needed by many in the community as a way to stay, improving the overall "green" aspects of the site, as well as delivering a new church that will be accessible and more efficient. The Wisconsin Avenue

Baptist Church has been a fixture in Tenleytown for over 100 years now, and at this location for over 60. This project helps meet a **critical community need and allows the congregation to operate in a manner much more pertinent and relevant than the existing building can allow.**

I understand this project **also has the support of ANC 3E.**

For all these reasons, I urge your support for the project. I am certain the Church and Sunrise will continue to work with the surrounding neighborhood to meet and resolve any issues that should arrive.

Thank you for your efforts and your service to the city.

Respectfully,