

Ian C. Story
1841 15th St NW
Washington DC 20009

October 8, 2019

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St NW, Suite 200/210-S
Washington DC 20001

RE: BZA CASE 20144

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the special exception for the development of an addition at 1832 15th St NW. As a neighbor who has gone through the exact same permitting process as this, I can empathize with the owners of 1832 15th St NW.

As we all know, housing in DC has become quite unaffordable over the past decade. In a more flexible housing market, buying a larger dwelling would be the more logical option. But for many residents of DC, upsizing to a new home is not a possibility as prices put larger houses out of reach for all but the wealthiest. My wife and I wanted a larger house to start a family in: an addition was the only option we could afford to remain in the District. Otherwise, we would have been forced to leave the District to find affordable housing elsewhere.

It is unfair to deny DC residents the right to increase their home size when the inventory of available housing is at a historic low. The proposed addition to 1832 15th St NW will do nothing to impact the value of nearby homes, including mine. The development will be in the back, abutting only an enclosed alleyway. It is selfish of neighbors to be in opposition to this project for the sole reason that it may block their sunlight or obstruct their view. We are not entitled to unhindered sun nor the perfect view (of an alley no less). There is no legitimate reason to chase current tax-paying residents out of DC because of excessive regulations and NIMBY-ism. We should be encouraging the increase of housing supply as a bulwark against out-of-control pricing.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in BZA Case 20144. Please let me know if I can provide further details on my support for the special exception for 1832 15th St NW.

Regards,


Ian C. Story

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20144
EXHIBIT NO.45