

To: BZA-DCOZ
From: E. Lawrence, Resident 4D03
Date: Feb 21, 2020
RE: BZA Application No. 20218

To whom it may concern

Having received notice of the pending application hearing of Gwendolyn Keita for "A Use Variance" On the premises of 5200 4th St. NW and residing with-in 200 feet of the property, I have elected to Participate in the case by exercising the option to submit a "statement into the official record."

Statement of Record

By E. A. Lawrence

414 Hamilton St. NW

Referring to BZA Case No. 20218

As the Board of Zoning Adjustment considers the application for a "use variance on 5200 4th St. NW" I make this my written testimony for the official record.

First, let me state that I do not know nor have I ever met the applicant or agent of said property.

The owner is unknown to me.

Second, I have reviewed the case documentation from the "Online Information Service Website"

Found in the "Notice of Application Letter" sent to my residence of record.

Finally, I am in "SUPPORT OF the USE VARIANCE". There are many "truths" in the applicants 'Burden of Proof Statement' as I comprehend them from a purely rational and objective perspective."

THE TENANTS

I have personally known the previous tenants of the property. I have also observed the current

THE TENANTS (con't)

"NEW TENANTS" of the property. I have been a resident of Hamilton St NW since Sept of 1989, thirty plus years. I have witnessed "the coming and goings" of my neighbors at this residence as I can see the entire Rear and side of the house from my front steps/porch.

During my lifetime, I have never known "ANY TENANTS" of this house to be a "PROBLEM, nor can it be said this is a "NUISANCE PROPERTY" in our neighborhood. Their decency as "GOOD NEIGHBORS" is the norm. As a previous "BLOCK CAPTAIN" there was never a complaint that arose to where NEIGHBORS had to "take action against the tenants of this property".

THE HAMILTON ST ADDRESS

The entrance on Hamilton St did indeed have a separate address, as my neighbor, friend, mentor, Mr. Owen Hinkle Sr. (Father of Benita- Tenant of the "MAIN House" Unit) and Mrs. Shirley Hinkle (Mother of Benita) informed me.

Mr. Sonny and Mrs. Shirley, affectionately known to neighbors, lived in the basement unit. They would sometimes ask me for assistance with their Prescription/ Medicaid Paperwork. These documents came in the US Mail with a "different address" than 5200. I have held these letters in my hand; I have also witnessed the mailman deliver the mail to the HAMILTON St. entrance-ADDRESS.

I am intimately familiar with this "home" (NOT JUST PROPERTY) and the "GOOD PEOPLE" who lived here, "The HINKLE FAMILY". Even now as I pass by and see the "NEW -CURRENT tenants living on the corner", I can't help but think to myself- 'those are some "fortunate folks". They can't help but be grateful for Having found such a nice place to live. Mind you there still are no Complaints or Nuisances living on the corner of 4th & Hamilton St. NW.

What "Strict Adherence Does":

BZA has an "OPTION" it can choose to exercise in this case. There is no ADVERSE AFFECT TO "OUR NEIGHBORHOOD" by allowing this "USE VARIANCE" to pass.

Decent hard –working members of our community should be allowed to “CONTINUE” to live, make a home, to raise their children in an AFFORDABLE “FAMILY DWELLING”, in a SAFE FAMILY ORIENTED NEIGHBORHOOD. That’s what we have here on the corner of 4th & Hamilton St. NW. I will expect it to remain that way as long as I live here. I will be “WORKING” to defend it as such, as a homeowner and VESTED NEIGHBOR.

BZA has an enormous duty; as Washington, DC experiences some of the “HIGHEST RATES OF GENTRIFICATION” in the NATION. Affordable housing is increasingly difficult for “SINGLE FAMILIES” to find here.

What does “STRICT APPLICATION OF ZONING REQUIREMENTS DO?”

In this case specifically it would displace a BLACK FAMILY and a BROWN FAMILY,
Forcing out yet another “AFRICAN AMERICAN HOMEOWNER. CREATING HARDSHIP
In its wake. All to comply with STRINGENCY. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
THIS HOME HAS BEEN UTILIZED AS A “DUPLEX FOR THIRTY PLUS YEARS.”
NOW IN 2019..... we have “STRINGENCY” ? uhmmm.....RED FLAG! FOUL...

Finally

The Single Family Unit which all families are made up of is –SIMILAR- look at your family, my Family, their family; each is a single family unit. So what if the dwelling has two separate entrances! A two unit dwelling supports 2 – SINGLE FAMILY UNITS. What could be wrong with that?

THE PRECEDENT has been set years and years ago! If any rational
Minds exist THIS “USE VARIANCE” ought receive a “GRANDFATHER EXCEPTION”
For time in use; 30 Years.

Respectfully, I submit to the BZA OPTION TO GRANT THIS USE VARIANCE

Thereby allowing 2 families to “STAY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA” and also allow my neighbors the Decency to live in a “STABLE COMMUNITY”, one that they already contribute to.

There is nothing for the BOARD to gain by refusing this application thereby dispensing “PAIN”.

Placing people in despair. HELP PEOPLE DON’T HURT THEM! APPROVE THE VARIANCE!

Sincerely, E. A. LAWRENCE, RESIDENT 4D03

E. A. Lawrence 2/21/2020