

April 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: dcoz@dc.gov
Frederick L. Hill, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th St. NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 20594; Variance Application of Nezahat and Paul Harrison


Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Board:

We are residents of the Forest Hills neighborhood and are submitting this SECOND letter to the BZA to express our opposition to the request for a special exception and variance from the zoning regulations in my neighborhood at 3007 Albemarle St NW. We wrote previously to oppose the variance and now are writing this letter to express our opposition to the special exception application for the same development plan. This project of 3007 Albemarle is a matter that affects not only adjacent neighbors but the entire Forest Hills Community and sets a bad precedent for infill development proposals which have little to no regard for residents who are impacted by buildout to their back yards.

The planned development of 3007 Albemarle St. NW with the addition of a second home on a new pipestem lot is now prohibited by our current zoning regulations. Whether achieved with this special exception or variance zoning relief, the proposed development will result in development of a pipestem lot, i.e., one that sits amidst others' backyards creating infill in an established neighborhood setting. The current zoning regulations afford residents of Forest Hills protection from development such as building houses on pipestem lots that will overlook our backyards and reducing the privacy of homes that comply with the zoning regulations with respect to street frontage.

Granting the proposed special exception or variance will set an unfortunate precedent that will erode the protections afforded by low density zoning that current residents reasonably rely on and pave the way for similar requests from other large lot owners which may ultimately remove the protections that zoning regulations were intended to provide.

In conclusion, we stand with the adjacent neighbors and request that the Board of Zoning Adjustment deny this special exception and/or variance until the Applicant adequately addresses the concerns of the adjacent property owners and members of the Forest Hills community.


Margaret Shanks


Robert Shanks

3002 Albemarle Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20594
EXHIBIT NO.90