

**Rebecca and Justin Galen**

4850 Linnean Ave NW  
Washington DC 20008

May 13, 2022

**via IZIS**

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
441 4th Street, NW  
Suite 210S  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Letter in Support of Harrisons – 3007 Albemarle St NW (BZA 20594)**

Dear Members of the Board,

We live at 4850 Linnean Avenue NW, which is nearby 3007 Albemarle St NW and in the same R8 zone. We write to give our support for the above-referenced BZA application.

The Harrison's proposal to build a multi-generational home for themselves and a second for sale to another family on a site more than four times the minimum required lot size is more than reasonable and well in context with the neighborhood and the intent of the R8 zoning. R8 zoning is already the most restrictive in the city. Despite that, besides the request to allow the new homes to be owned by two families rather than one, it is our understanding the proposed homes meet and often well exceed all of the zone's setback, height, and density restrictions. The site is beautiful in its current state, but it is not a public park; restricting it to only one house is well outside the mass and footprint intentions of the zoning. Indeed, all of the surrounding houses are on much smaller lots and many are in fact on lots that would not meet today's lot dimension and yard requirements. In addition, this site is less than ½ mile to the metro and thus is an ideal location for additional housing.

We are familiar with the property as we and our children have had the pleasure of visiting there with the Harrisons and their 8-year-old son. We bought our Forest Hills home five years ago to raise our growing family and understand how difficult it is to find family-size housing. We have reviewed the Harrison's building plans and these homes are the kinds of properties that would have met our family needs. Moreover, we follow the market in the neighborhood closely and it is clear to us that demand for this kind of housing far exceeds what is available. Without new construction families will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in and contribute to this community. The opposing neighbors will not represent these excluded families, so we feel compelled to do so.

We therefore urge the Board to approve the Harrison's application.

Sincerely,

