

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Hamala, Mark (DCOZ)
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:43 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: RE: Application No. 21247 - Written Letter of Protest for Failure to Comply with DC Zoning Regulations

Hi Pat,

Could you add this to the record, it was on time. Thanks!

-Mark

From: Dexter <cole.dexter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:45 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-BZASubmissions@dc.gov>
Cc: Dexter Cole <cole.dexter@gmail.com>; p.strother@verizon.net
Subject: Application No. 21247 - Written Letter of Protest for Failure to Comply with DC Zoning Regulations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cole.dexter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We, the residents of 4711 and 4709 16th St., NW, are providing a written statement of protest for the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School's request for special exceptions due to the school's current citations for failure to comply with DC Zoning regulations.

Please reference case numbers below as we also understand that the case has been forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings:

- 24ENF-IC-03167: Correction Order
- 24ENF-IC-03804: Citation
- 25ENF-IC-00912: Correction Order

We want to go on record and bring to your attention a matter of significant concern regarding ongoing violations of DC zoning regulations by the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School located at 4715 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20011. Despite multiple attempts to address these issues directly with the school and the D.C. Department of Buildings, the violations persist, and enforcement has been lacking. This situation raises serious questions about transparency and the failure of local authorities to ensure compliance with the law.

Specifically, we're referring to the following violation:

Fence Height Exceeding Legal Limits: The school erected a fence over a year ago along the property line of resident 4711-16th St., NW., that exceeds the maximum height limit established by DC Zoning regulations. This

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Staff: Justin H. H.
CASE NO.21247
EXHIBIT NO.31

violation has been brought to the attention of the Milton School, the Department of Buildings, The Office of the Mayor, Councilmember Janeese Lewis George and ANC Commissioner Randy Zmuda.

Additionally, no permit was obtained for the fence, nor was the approval of neighboring resident Dexter Cole provided to erect it beyond the 7-foot legal requirement, which is part of the permitting and approval process.

Lack of Enforcement: I, Dexter Cole, have filed complaints with the Department of Buildings regarding these violations, but there has been no meaningful response or resolution. This lack of enforcement is deeply frustrating and raises concerns about the transparency and accountability of the Department's processes. It appears that the school is being allowed to violate the law without consequence, which undermines the principles of fairness and justice in our city.

We believe the special exception requests should not be granted until the Milton School is compliant with the current Zoning requirements and the fence adjoining the neighboring residential properties be lowered to the legal 7 foot height. Granting the Milton School a special exception without their being in compliance with existing DC Zoning regulations would set a troubling precedent, allowing institutions to operate with impunity when it comes to zoning regulations and property rights in the District of Columbia.

As long-time DC taxpayers and DC homeowners with 20+ years residing at our current address, we respectfully ask that you honor our request to not grant the Milton School special exceptions while they are in current violation of DC Zoning regulations with an unpermitted structure.

Sincerely,

Dexter Cole
4711 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
cole.dexter@gmail.com

and

Paul Strother
4709 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
p.strother@verizon.net