

4/7/2025

I am the homeowner of 1514 Allison Street, NW, which is adjacent to 4401 16th Street, by way of a small alley and parking lot. I understand that the Applicant is requesting a special exception relief to reuse a portion of the existing church on this property as a child development center. The Applicant currently operates two child development centers in our community, serving families in the area. The proposal seeks to consolidate those locations into a single permanent home, ensuring continuity and stability for the many families relying on their services.

Before I provide my assent, I would like to provide some prospective on what type of neighbor we would be receiving. First, I am a born and raised Washingtonian, raised in this neighborhood, in that home. I have seen many changes to this neighborhood. And I have made many friends and met many good people over the years. I believe Mr. Hussain Shehab will be one such individual.

Brief story: Just over a week ago, a quiet Friday evening. I was on my front porch conversing with a neighbor about our new duties as block captains. This would include helping out and organizing our block in an emergency. Little did I know we would be called upon a lot sooner. A group of young men came to us on the phone with DC 911. Their car was catching fire, most likely electrical. I spoke to the operator to give an address then rushed down the alley. There was a nanny running to the scene and a calm man. All of us were calling 911 at the same time. The car was ablaze dangerously close to someone's house which would have been burned down. Of course, police/fire & rescue arrived. And except for the car, there was no other damage.

The calm man was Mr. Shehab who was trying to pitch in and help. From my perspective he already wants to be part of this community. An asset too and not a liability against. So, with that said, I believe that the consolidated Soles Montessori Child Development Center will be a valuable addition to our community while preserving the neighborhood's unique character by adaptively reusing the church building with no physical expansions. The ample parking and multiple road exits will not hinder the neighbors.

I respectfully endorse this request as a neighbor and ask that the Board approve the Applicant's request for special exception relief. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via my provided email address.

Regards,



Arthur J Kparr