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Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G
Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

June 12, 2026

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
Re: Case No. 21452 -- 3817 Jenifer Street NW

BY EMAIL

Dear Members of the Board:

I write in response to the opposition letter submitted by Mira Courpas of 3810 Jocelyn Street NW regarding BZA Case No. 21452. As the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for SMD 3G07, I wish to address both the concerns she raises pertaining to the ANC's decision and her suggestion that my participation in the ANC vote was somehow improper.

Ms. Courpas raises concerns about precedent, privacy, building height and the character of rear yards in Chevy Chase. These are precisely the kinds of considerations the ANC takes into account, and they were discussed at our meeting. The Commission voted to support the application after weighing these concerns against the applicants' demonstrated need, the specific circumstances of the lot, and neighbors' support for and also opposition to the project. Reasonable people may disagree with the outcome at the ANC; the BZA process exists precisely to provide independent review of such applications.

Regarding the timing of the vote: the ANC is not required to delay action. The meeting was publicly noticed. Ms. Courpas, her husband, Jonathan Puth, and Michael Hall of 3816 Jocelyn Street NW appeared at the meeting and spoke in opposition. I would also note that Ms. Courpas and her husband had contacted me to request notification of the ANC meeting at which the project would be discussed. I emailed them prior to the meeting and included a copy of the listserv notice of the meeting, the link to register for the online meeting, and the agenda.

As to my impartiality, Ms. Courpas suggests, without stating it directly, that I should have recused myself because I am a "friend and neighbor" of the O'Briants. I want to address this clearly and on the record.

The O'Briants and I are neighbors on the same block. They live across the street from me. We are cordial, as good neighbors are. Our contact is limited to my professional outreach as an ANC Commissioner, occasional interactions on the street, and attendance at the same annual block party. We do not socialize otherwise, and have no personal, financial, or organizational relationship of any kind. There is nothing in that acquaintance that would impair my ability to evaluate this application on its merits or that would require, or even support, recusal under any applicable standard. I note that I did not take a position either for or against the project prior to the matter coming before the ANC.

Recusal is a serious matter. It comes into play when a commissioner has a direct personal or financial interest in an outcome, or a relationship that creates an actual or apparent conflict. The facts here simply do not support that suggestion. Because we are the hyper-local elected representatives of DC Government, ANC Commissioners are and should be acquainted with their constituents. I take my ethical obligations seriously. There was no need for me to recuse myself from this matter at the ANC.

I submit this letter both as ANC 3/4G's designated representative in this matter and, in my own right as an ANC Commissioner, to respond to a question Ms. Courpas has raised for the first time in her filing about my participation in the ANC vote. I respectfully request that this letter be made part of the official record in Case No. 21452.

I remain available to address any questions the Board may have regarding the ANC's deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,



boxSIGN 4ZRVL67X-4K8525KW

Elizabeth Nagy
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, SMD 3G07
ANC 3/4G, Vice Chair

cc: Sarah and Carl O'Briant, Applicants
Pete Nettleback, RA, Architect of Record
Mira Courpas and Jonathan Puth, Constituents
Commissioners, ANC 3/4G