From:	Bardin, Sara (DCOZ)
To:	DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject:	FW: BZA Case 21510 - Letter of Support - RCC
Date:	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 1:12:01 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Sincerely,

Sara

Sara Bardin
Director

Office of Zoning | District of Columbia Government
www.dcoz.dc.gov | sara.bardin@dc.gov

441 4th Street, NW | Suite 200-S | Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-5372 (office) | (202) 727-6072 (fax)

From: Jennifer Mickel <jmickel@alumni.princeton.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 1:10 PM
To: ANC 3C Office (ANC 3C) <3C@anc.dc.gov>; ATD DCOZ <dcoz@dc.gov>
Subject: BZA Case 21510 - Letter of Support - RCC

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from jmickel@alumni.princeton.edu. Learn why this is important

Dear Commissioners,

My family moved in August, and the proposed conversion of Greystone into a community center on Porter Street is a big part of why we chose to stay in the District. I'm writing to ask you to support its special exception application.

We love living somewhere walkable. We commute downtown when we have to, but we strongly prefer to spend our weekends and evenings within walking distance of home. For this reason, before we chose to buy in DC, we had been seriously considering moving to Edgemoor in Bethesda, MD where a neighborhood club founded in 1920 has anchored family life for generations. We assumed we would have to move to Maryland or Virginia to find a

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EXHIBIT NO. 100

place like that, one that gets families outdoors and into nature and brings neighbors together. When we learned this community center was in the works, we were thrilled to realize we could keep building our lives right here in the middle of the city.

The need is real, and it's here. Greystone is in Cleveland Park. About 2,000 children under 15 live in Cleveland Park and Woodley Park, roughly one in six residents. Another 2,050 live just across Rock Creek Park in Mount Pleasant, 18% of residents. All told, about 6,800 children under 15 live in the Census tracts centered within a mile of Greystone (Census ACS 2020–24). Yet according to the application, there is no public recreation center within a mile of the site. This community center is designed to serve exactly these families: anyone living in ANC 3C can join, and the applicant has committed that the vast majority of members will live within one mile.

Local trips are different from commutes. The opposition's traffic consultant pointed out that only about 3% of visitors to the Cleveland Park Club arrive by bike. That matches the area around it: about 2% of Cleveland Park commuters bike to work (Census ACS 2020–24). But the Cleveland Park Club sits on residential streets with parking nearby. Greystone will have almost no member parking, a new entrance onto the Rock Creek trail, and bus service on Porter Street, with Cleveland Park Metro about half a mile away. A short walk or bike ride to the pool on a Saturday is a different choice from a daily commute downtown. That's exactly the kind of trip my family moved here to make without a car.

The applicant has responded to concerns. At the committee meeting, the applicant described these commitments:

- A ban on pickleball.
- No outdoor amplified sound except at a few events announced well in advance.
- Closing at 9 p.m. on weeknights.
- Daytime trash pickup at the Porter Street entrance.
- An on-site turnaround so cars don't use neighbors' driveways.
- Paying for upkeep of the gravel road.
- Free memberships for the households in the immediate enclave.

The applicant also said no changes are proposed to the historic buildings' exteriors.

This keeps Greystone part of the neighborhood. A 1999 covenant prevents more housing on the property. A community center with enforceable conditions is a far better outcome for a historic estate on Rock Creek Park than a private residence few people will ever see.

I respect the concerns of the immediate neighbors, and I believe this plan meets them.

Our neighborhoods need more space for families, and this is it. We want to invest here, with our time, our friendships, and our money, and so do many families like ours -- as evinced by the widespread enthusiasm and commitments before it has even been opened. Amenities like this are what will keep our neighborhoods desirable places in the region to raise a family.

My children are 3 and 5, and we want them to grow up with a strong sense of community, with neighborhood friendships, and with outlets for outdoor recreation. We strongly hope that they can do that while remaining among the vibrant life of this city. This community center would help make that possible.

I urge the Commission to vote to support the application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mickel
18th & Lamont St. NW
jennifer.mickel@gmail.com