

September 22, 2008

Zoning Commission

RE: Case Number (ZC 08-09)

I am writing to oppose the proposal to expand the zoning overlay that will prohibit the development of the church that is being proposed at the corner of 16th and Emerson. The development has met all of the zoning requirements and has even provided more parking than is required. I strongly believe this church will strengthen the community, provide a place for the community to gather, and will be a resource to the city during times of crisis. A recent example of this occurred when local church members in Texas were there to help support the community after hurricane Ike. Below is an excerpt from a press release:

Deborah Duncan, host of KHOU TV's *Deborah Duncan Show*, heard about the Mormon Helping Hands volunteers and decided to do a segment about them on her show. After watching the volunteers in action, she observed: "It is interesting to me because historically if you look at where people go in times of need and in times of a disaster, they go back to the church. And even though we have all of those government programs today and agencies and entities, people still at the end of the day go back to the church. It is nice to see people out here practicing what we preach."

Below is a link to the entire article:

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/news-releases-stories/mormon-helping-hands-clean-up-after-hurricane-ike>

Regards,



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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

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EXHIBIT NO. 28