



May 15, 2025

Zoning Commission  
of the District of Columbia  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Ste. 200  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: ZC Case No. 24-14 – Emory United Methodist Church (“Emory”)  
Letter of Support**

Dear Commissioners:

Please allow this letter to serve as the First Shift Justice Project’s letter of support for Emory’s request to rezone their property located at 1459 Columbia Road, NW from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

First Shift Justice Project is a nonprofit founded in 2014 to address the unmet legal needs of working mothers. Since our founding, First Shift’s mission has grown to include all types of family caregivers who are in low wage positions throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area. We help our clients maintain employment by requesting pregnancy accommodations; taking leave from work to care for family members; accessing D.C. paid leave benefits; and fighting employment discrimination based on pregnancy and family responsibilities. First Shift’s offices are located in Festival Center, just a few blocks from Emory’s property. The majority of our clients live and/or work in D.C. and are families who would benefit from the proposed use of this property, to create affordable housing.

Accordingly, we support Emory’s efforts to rezone their property because doing so would significantly contribute to the overall affordable housing supply in the Columbia Heights neighborhood and would positively impact the neighborhood’s vibrancy. For these reasons, we urge the Zoning Commission to approve Emory’s request to rezone their property from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura G. Brown".

Laura Brown  
Executive Director  
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Washington, D.C. 20009  
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