

GOD'S ANOINTED NEW GENERATION (G.A.N.G.)  
"YOUTH SERVICES-GROUP HOMES ... MENTORING ... TUTORING ... JOBS FOR YOUTH"

April 11, 2025

Tanya Torres Trice  
Interim Director  
Child and Family Services Agency  
200 I Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Zoning Case 24-19 (Text Amendment to Subtitle B, Section 100.2, definition of Youth Residential Care Home to include foster children up to age 20)

Dear Interim Director Trice:

God's Anointed New Generation fully supports Child and Family Services Agency's (CDSA) petition to amend the zoning definition of a youth residential care facility to include foster children who are under the age of 21.

We are writing to advocate for the establishment of a group home specifically designed to support youth over the age of 18 who are in need of transitional living services. As these young adults step into adulthood, many are navigating life without the consistent support systems typically available to their peers. A group home can serve as a vital resource in helping them build stable, successful futures.

Many youths who have aged out of foster care, been displaced from their homes, or have experienced trauma find themselves unprepared for independent living. Without guidance and support, they often struggle with housing instability, unemployment, lack of education, and untreated mental health needs. A group home setting would offer the structure, supervision, and supportive services necessary to meet these challenges head-on.

Establishing a group home would provide:

- **A Safe and Stable Environment:** A group home ensures that these young adults have a secure place to reside while they work toward independence.
- **Life Skills Training:** Residents can gain essential skills such as budgeting, cooking, time management, and communication — all crucial for independent living.
- **Access to Education and Employment Support:** With proper mentoring and vocational assistance, youth can stay on track with their education or job training goals.
- **Mental Health and Wellness Support:** Many youths over 18 continue to struggle with trauma, anxiety, or depression. Group homes often provide access to counseling and mental health resources in a caring and consistent environment.
- **Community and Belonging:** Living among peers in a structured setting fosters healthy social connections and helps reduce feelings of isolation.

Ultimately, the goal of a group home is not simply to provide a place to live, but to equip young adults with the tools they need to thrive on their own. By offering a blend of accountability and compassion, we can help them break cycles of instability and move forward with confidence and purpose.

I urge you to consider the positive and lasting impact that a group home for youth over 18 can have not just on the individuals who reside there, but on the community as a whole. Investing in their future now will yield immeasurable benefits for years to come.

CFSA is the district's agency that is responsible for child welfare and for the care and placement of the district's foster children. Foster children may remain in foster care until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday which provides older foster youth the opportunity to develop life skills and access housing and other supports to assist them in transitioning to adulthood. This will align the zoning regulations with District law and allow group homes for foster children to continue serving foster youth up to the age of 21.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

God's Anointed New Generation

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Executive Director

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