

December 2, 2018

50 Whittier Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20012

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A

Request for Modification of Consequences

6201 Third Street, N.W.

(The V.I.P. Room)

Washington, DC 20011

The Board of Zoning Adjustment Care of

Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson

441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200S

Washington , DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hill,

It has taken me an unusual amount of time just to sit down and actually write this letter. I am extremely disturbed and in disbelief concerning some information I have heard recently regarding very negative, seemingly libelous accusations against the Sampson family and their family business, the V.I.P. Room.

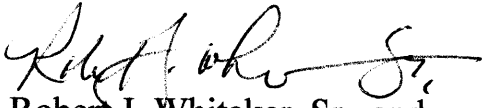
We have known the Sampson family, intimately, since we moved into this neighborhood some 42 years ago. We attend the same church and our family has attended many functions held at the V.I.P. Room, including family events for which we have rented use of the Room, such as my daughter's 13th birthday party.

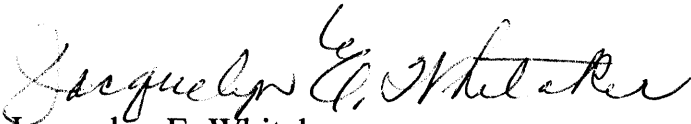
It feels as if the new residents of the neighborhood do not want to move in and fit in with the current community, but instead want to come in and try to change and take over the environment, thereby destroying the spirit of family in an established community.

This type of divisiveness promotes just the opposite of "Family." It is detrimental to the long established character of the neighborhood . We are very disheartened and extremely opposed to this type of thing occurring in the neighborhood where we raised our children. If a long-time family of this community and the family-owned business they have built and nurtured for more than 50 years is being maligned in this way, then what can we expect next?

There is not a more respectable, giving family which has shared their business with this community, and maintained that business in a most respectful manner , The allegations against the Sampsons and the V.I.P Room could not be farther from the truth. We know this to be fact. This is the community that we love and would never offer support of any negative element into its midst. We trust this helps to present a clear picture of the V.I.P Room and the Sampson family and the important role they have played, and continue to play in this community. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Whitaker, Sr. and


Jacquelyn E, Whitaker

50 Whittier Street, NW

Washington, DC 20012

Board of Zoning and Adjustment
C/O Mr. Frederick L. Hill-Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street (The VIP Room)
Washington D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Hill,

This correspondence is my personal testimony in positive support of the VIP Room. I have patronized this establishment many times over the past 25 years and have found it to be an outstanding business that represents itself and the surrounding community in a very professional manner.

Recently, I discovered the VIP establishment has been under review by your zoning board for permission to allow a cash bar to serve their clients, I would like to positively endorse this license being granted to the VIP Room. In my observation, the management and staff of this small community business will be excellent ambassadors of the privileges your office is charged with overseeing.

Washington D.C. continues to experience a rebirth of new business growth, this is good but the city also has a responsibility to help small minority businesses thrive. The VIP Room has been operating in this city and serving this community for over a half century, the family operated minority business has earned the right to have the same competitive tools to serve the patrons of this community as the newly established bigger businesses.

In closing, I encourage you and your office to grant the license for the VIP Room and look forward to your fair and positive decision. Thank you for your time and attention to my expression of support for the VIP Room.

Best Regards,

Nat Martin
(443) 454-1933

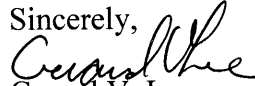
The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

December 1, 2018

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Hill,

I've been a D.C. resident for over thirty years and have known the Sampson family for more than thirty years. I have been to many events at the V.I.P Room since the V.I.P Room has been remodeled. I am also a DC Police Officer with over thirty years of experience. I have never seen any illegal activity at V.I.P Room. The Sampson family is well respected in the community. They are decent people. The negative things that are being said about this family are simply not true.

Sincerely,

Gerard V. Lee

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)
Re: BZA Case No. 12799A Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third St., NW (VIP Room) Washington, DC 20011

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

My name is Gregory Diggs and I am a native Washingtonian who is extremely proud of my city and all its beauty, history, cultural contributions, and diversity. I would like to strongly voice my opposition to the "Minor-Modification" of the VIP Room's license outlined in the memorandum for the proceeding by case manager, Steven J. Mordfin at the Office of Planning issued November 16, 2018.

Although I do not reside in the VIP Room neighborhood, I have attended numerous events that have been held in that incredible facility. I have firsthand knowledge of the hard work and dedication that the Sampson family has devoted to the operation of that venue and also how much they have contributed to that community at large. The members of the Sampson family are good, decent, God-fearing people and they run a very respectable and honorable operation. I salute them and the untarnished legacy of the VIP Room and I strongly advocate for the approval of all of the licenses that are required for the VIP Room to continue its service to the community and perpetuate its esteemed legacy in the Washington, D.C. area.

Regards.

Gregory Diggs

6022 4th Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20011
Nov. 30, 2018

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The VIP Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Sir:

This is a letter of support for the VIP Room's request for a cash bar for their clients like Martino's Crosswind and La Fontaine Bleue.

I have had events at the VIP Room and have received very professional and satisfactory service.

Sincerely Yours,
Addie Carrington

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A

Request for Modification of Consequences

6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room) – Washington, DC 20011

December 2, 2018

TO: The Board of Zoning Adjustment

Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson

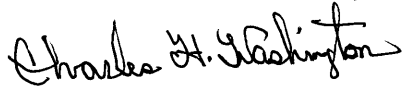
441 4th Street, NW. Suite 200S – Washington, DC 20001

THIS LETTER IS SENT FOR THE VERY STRONG SUPPORT OF ALLOWING “THE V.I.P ROOM” TO HAVE A CASH BAR FOR VARIOUS EVENTS. WE HAVE ATTENDED VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS, ETC., AT THE V.I.P. ROOM AND ALL OF THE ATTENDEES HAVE ALWAYS ACTED IN A VERY ORDERLY MANNER. UPON LEAVING EVENTS, WE HAVE NEVER WITNESSED ANY NOISE OR DISORDERLY CONDUCT NOR HAVE WE EVER SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF DRUGS OR ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. WE VALUE HAVING THIS ESTABLISHMENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SO THAT WE DON’T HAVE TO TRAVEL TO MARYLAND, ETC. FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL EVENTS.

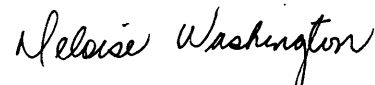
WE HIGHLY SUPPORT THE SAMPSON FAMILY – THE OWNERS OF THE V.I.P. ROOM. THEY ARE ALL OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED. THEIR INTEGRITY IS SUCH THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY WRONG DOING THAT MIGHT BLEMISH THEIR REPUTATION. THEY ARE KNOWN AS PEOPLE WHO USE GOOD JUDGMENT IN THEIR BUSINESS INTERACTIONS.

AGAIN, WE STRONGLY – STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A CASH BAR!!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



CHARLES H. WASHINGTON



DELOISE WASHINGTON

613 Aspen St., NW
Wash., DC 20012

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of: Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Since the V.I.P. Room opened its doors decades ago, I have watched this facility become the answer for many people and organizations as a clean, reputable, hospitable and classy place to hold events and celebrations. Because I worked with the Sampson family when the facility first opened and have attended many events over the years, I have observed the clientele who were and are always respectful and are appreciative of having this kind of facility to come to. The behavior of the people has not changed in all of these years and I don't expect it to change in the future.

To hear that the Sampson family is being accused of selling drugs and conducting illegal activity at the V.I. P. Room is absurd. It is said that our actions speak louder than our words, so if the accusers knew the Sampsons, they would know that what they are saying about the Sampsons is not true and that they would never indulge in such activity. This family is a church going, God fearing family who have been good neighbors over the years and who desire to do nothing more than provide a facility that meets the needs of the community. They are service and people oriented and give much more than they receive.


I have known this family for over fifty years and I have never seen or heard anything that would even suggest that they were involved with drugs or any other illegal activity. If what the opponents are saying is true, why would our mayor attend events at the V.I.P Room? If what they are saying is true, why would Brandon Todd hold events there? Why would church groups, sororities, fraternities and reputable citizens want to go to the V.I.P. Room?

There are two sides to every story and I cannot help but wonder what is the motive of these accusers. The V.I.P. Room has been around for a long time, so

why is there now a vendetta against this facility? Have the accusers tried to get to know the Sampsons? Do they want to know the Sampsons or is their only desire to get rid of the V.I.P. Room?

I support the Sampsons and because I know the character of this family, I also support the V.I.P. Room and the service that it offers to the community.

With my unwavering support,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Gloria J. Grant". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Gloria J. Grant

Mr. Frederick L. Hill

Chairperson

Board of Zoning Adjustment

441 4th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Case Number: 12799A

Request for modification of consequences for; 6201 Third Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am writing to you to request that the Zoning board of Adjustment investigate the unethical harassment and erroneous accusations made against their family and business: The V.I.P. Room.

There should be transparency and honesty in this process, especially when the loop holes of speculators, developers and investors over zealously push to create a moneyed city for only above middle class financially endowed residents.

We should not throw people and businesses with legacy away because they are Black, struggling to make ends meet from one generation to the next and lack a million dollars of cash, credit or collateral liquidity.

Please do the right thing!

With Hope for our home rule judiciously,

Angie Whitehurst

1309 Hamilton Street NW

Washington, DC 20011

12805 Marlow Place
Silver Spring, MD 20904
December 2, 2018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Case No.12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

I am writing in support of the V.I.P. Room request to allow their clients to have a cash bar.

I have known members of the Sampson family for more than 30 years through our church and social affiliations. We have many mutual friends and acquaintances. They are respected and well thought of in the church and in the community. I have not known them to be engaged in disreputable or illegal activities in their homes, place of business or community. The V.I.P. enjoys a reputation throughout the city as a place where individuals and organizations can host social and civic events in a decent, well managed, safe environment. I recommend that the referenced request be approved.

Sincerely,


Patricia A. Bolinger

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, DC 20011

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Hill,

I am writing to you to voice my support of The V.I.P. Room and the Sampson Family. I have friends and family who have supported this business for almost two decades and well before I personally knew the family. The rumors of illegal activity at this establishment are outrageous and completely false. The V.I.P. Room should also be able to have a cash bar just like any other banquet hall. This is the only business like this in the area and it's much needed.

Sincerely,

The Douglas Family

1347 Sheridan Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011-1130
November 30, 2018

Re: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, DC 20011

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
c/o Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 – 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the V.I.P. Room be given the opportunity to allow their clients to have a cash bar like other venues serving the DMV.

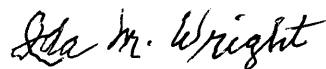
The V.I.P. Room is a family owned and operated business here in Ward Four.

I have the privilege of knowing the family for over forty years, and have attended many Anniversary and Birthday celebrations at their establishment.

The family is one of the most law abiding citizens in our Nation's capitol, and I can vouch for their integrity.

I hope you will find it favorable to grant their request in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Mrs. Ida M. Wright

Sunday, December 2, 2018

District of Columbia Government
D.C. Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration Board
Licensing Division
2000 14th Street, N.W. S400 Licensing Division
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Sir and Madam:

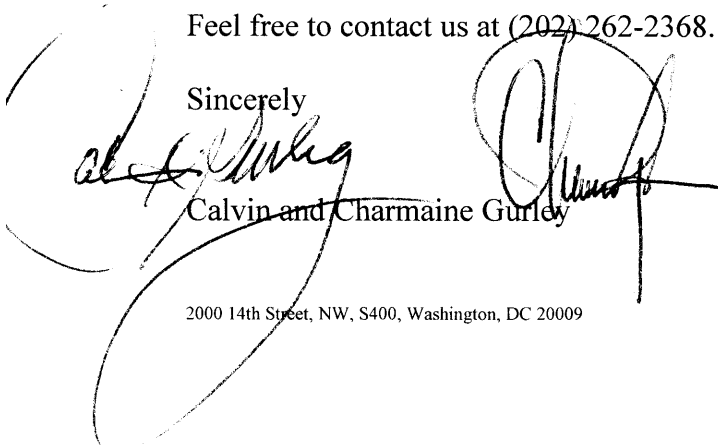
Mr. Calvin H. Gurley and Mrs. Charmaine Gurley who live at 612 Underwood Street, N.W. and within a couple of blocks of the VIP Room, Inc. gladly give support to the owner(s) of this establishment to be issued a permanent District of Columbia beverage liquor license.

The Gurley family have true and personal knowledge of the sterling character that the Sampson Family have demonstrated for more than the 20 years that we have known them as neighbors and owners of the VIP Room. The Sampson's care and due diligence in operating the VIP Room, Inc. has been an utmost responsibility that they have taken very seriously.

We humbly request that the D.C. Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration Board immediately bestow the VIP Room with the D.C. liquor license that they have worked hard for and deserve.

Feel free to contact us at (202) 262-2368. Thank you for your time and energy in this matter.

Sincerely



Calvin and Charmaine Gurley

2000 14th Street, NW, S400, Washington, DC 20009

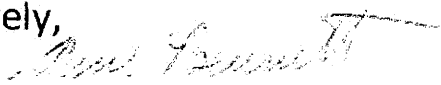
December 2, 2018

RE: BZA Case No.12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Frederick L. Hill,

As a past patron of the V.I.P. room in celebration of birthdays I was impressed by the establishment and conduct of its employees. I support their efforts to be able to accommodate their patrons in the same manner other facilities are permitted. This is a church family and I don't feel they will allow misconduct of any nature in this facility that they have treasured for many years. Mrs. Sampson is a woman who is always helping others without thought of reward or payment. This business helps her give back to those of lesser means.

Sincerely,


Anne Bennett

Margaret B. Seymour
1522 Village Square
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

December 2, 2018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
c/o Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 - 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am writing in support of the Sampson Family and the V.I.P. Room's request to allow their clients to have a cash bar. I have known the Sampson Family for more than two decades. I have found them to be upstanding individuals and very supportive of the community and the other businesses on Third Street. The V.I.P. Room is an important part of the community. Although DC is changing and improving, it is important that the historic character of the area be maintained. The V.I.P. Room is part of that. Having the ability to have a cash bar will enable them to be competitive and continue to be a pillar in the community.

I have also rented the V.I.P. Room for several events. My Mother owns Bene Millinery and has been a part of the Third Street business community since the 1980's. She is a nationally renowned milliner and has been recognized by the National Museum of African American History and Culture. She has also been recognized by the City as a Living Legend. The Sampson Family has been very protective and supportive of her and others in the community. The events I have had for her at the V.I.P. Room have been managed in a very professional and orderly fashion. I have never encountered any problems. It is important that any business that has a license to serve alcoholic beverages be invested in the community and concerned about the welfare of the citizens of the community. The Sampson Family has a history of doing just that. I endorse the request by the V.I.P. Room and hope that you will approve the request.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Seymour

Re: BZA Case No. 12/99A

Request for Modification of Consequences

6201 Third Street, NW

(The VIP Room)

Washington, DC 20011

The Board of Zoning Adjustment

Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson

441 4th Street, NW

Suite 200

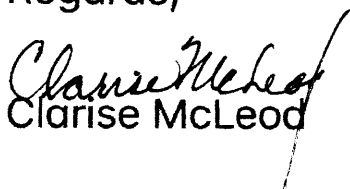
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hill,

The Sampson family has been a positive presence in the District of Columbia for more than five decades. I have attended several events at the VIP Room and the facility is always clean and well staffed.

The cash bar is critical if the VIP Room is going to continue to operate. Please consider the Sampson family's request to allow their clients to have a cash bar when holding an event at the VIP Room.

Regards,


Clarise McLeod

December 2, 2018

Martha A. Norris
6817 Georgia Ave. N.W.
Apt. 208
Washington, D.C. 20012

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, N.W. Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

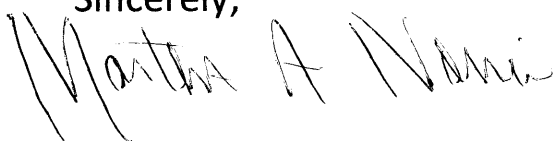
RE: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, N.W.(The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

I have lived on Georgia Ave. for over 40 years.
I have known the Sampson Family through the church.
I have attended functions in and outside the VIP Room.

I feel honored to have them as a part of my community.
THEY ARE A FAMILY OF INTEGRITY.

Your approval of their request will not be misguided.
If there are any problems you can believe it will not come from
This family but from the outside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha A. Norris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

December 1, 2018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, D.C. 20001

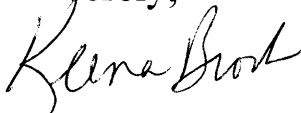
RE: BZA Case No.12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third Street, NW (The V.I.P. Room)
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Hill,

I strongly support that The Board of Zoning would afford the V.I.P room the opportunity to allow their clients to have a cash bar. The V.I.P. room has been a stable family business in the Takoma Park community since 1979, and the owners of the V.I.P. room, the Sampson family, have an outstanding reputation.

I have known the Sampson family for over 40 years and have attended several functions at the V.I.P. room from birthday parties to church events. I even used the V.I.P. room for my wedding rehearsal dinner. During my attendance at these functions, I have always had a positive and warm experience and there has never been any illegal activity.

Sincerely,



Keena Brock