

December 1, 2018

RE: BZA Case No. 12799A

Request for Modification of Consequences

6201 Third Street, NW (V.I.P. Room)

Washington, D.C. 20011

To: The Board of Zoning Adjustment

Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson

441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 200S

Washington, D.C. 20001

From: Anita E. Greene, D.M.D.

6127 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW

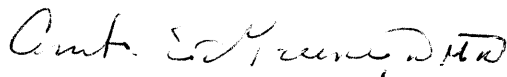
Washington, D.C. 20011

(202) 882-1380

As a resident of this community for the last 33 years, living in one of the corner homes across from the V.I.P. Room. I have watch the Sampson family conduct an outstanding respectable business. I want to state for the record that I have not had any problems with noise, vandalism or liter during or after any event at the V.I.P. Room. My bedroom along with my Dental Practice faces the V.I.P. Room; I have never had any problems with noise or liter effecting my patients or myself in

33 years.

Additionally, I feel that The Board of Zoning should allow the V.I.P. Room the opportunity to allow their clients to have a Cash Bar. Because in the last 33 years as a homeowner and having my Dental Practice directly across the street from the VI.P. Room. I have not seen anything that is an eye sore or negative to this community.



Dr. Anita E. Greene

In advance I thank you for your attention to this letter

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

The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 2009  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Hello my name is Mrs. Goosby-Gresholm  
my parent, sister and I moved in the 200 block  
of Rittenhouse St. N.W. February 1976 where I  
still live to this day. The VIP Room was being  
run by Mr. Samuel Sampson A very nice, kind,  
and caring man. After his passing his family  
gave the VIP Room a face lift, more rest, a  
ramp, sound proofing the building and so much  
more. When Mr. Samuel Sampson was  
running the VIP Room my daughter  
would help him out by setting up for  
event, and then going back the next  
morning to break it down on the weekend.  
My nephew would also help out inside  
and out with the event that they would  
have there. There have been times

where I have served and some of the events. They have always given work opportunities to the neighborhood. I have work at Peaches Kitchen across the street from the VIP Room for several years most of the time I work the late shift. There was never a problem you would not know there was a event go in or unless you looked over there and saw the lights on, or some one was going in or out I have to walk pass there from work at night to get home. The family is very supported of the businesses in the neighborhood as well

A supportive neighbor  
Mrs. Adria L. Gosby-Gresham  
(202) 276-8830

Mrs. Adria L. Gosby-Gresham

615 Underwood Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
November 30, 2018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 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 Board –

I am writing in support of the owners and management of The V.I.P. Room located at 6201 Third Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011 in their application for authority to contract with clients to provide a cash bar during events.

I am a life-long DC resident, a registered voter in Ward 4, a neighbor in the community and a periodic patron of events at The V.I.P. Room.

The owners and management are themselves active responsible residents in the community. They provide a valuable service. They operate a small, locally-owned, minority owned business in the District of Columbia. Every event that I have attended at The V.I.P. Room has been well-managed, orderly, and law-abiding. The Sampson family pride themselves on attracting and hosting events that celebrate life, community, and family. I have attended birthday celebrations, wedding receptions, anniversaries, church and community events there.

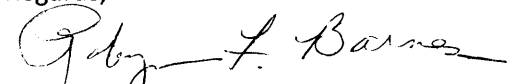
It would be an asset if The V.I.P. Room could also host events like fund raisers and organizational galas where the sale of alcohol helps offset the event cost. I have every confidence in The V.I.P. Room management to oversee such events to assure the highest level of safety, security, and consideration for the community of which they are a vital part. They are personally as well as economically invested in maintaining their reputation in the community as a good neighbor and as a responsible business.

I live in the community and walk frequently for exercise. I have personally observed owners and staff removing litter not only from their own property but also from public space and private property adjacent to The V.I.P. Room. I have observed the owners stay after events conclude to assure that there is no litter left strewn outside the building.

I am in support of their long, hard fought efforts to broaden the events that they legally provide to further serve the community to include events that provide a cash bar.

I can be contacted at 301-910-0083.

Regards,

  
Robyn Barnes

RE: BZA CASE NO. 12799A  
Request for Modification of Consequences  
6201 Third Street NW (VIP Room)  
Washington D.C. 20011

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
C/O Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. Suite 200 S  
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to encourage you to support the initiative of the owners of the VIP Room located at 6201 Third Street NW.

My name is David L. Hamilton and I am a retired Senior Urban Designer / Project Manager with a 30 year tenure at the National Capital Planning Commission. I have a very good understanding of urban planning, design, and community issues (see attached Vitae).

I am a native Washingtonian, have lived in the Takoma DC neighborhood for the past 50 years, and have been actively involved with planning issues within our community. Some of the community organizations that I have been involved with include, but not limited to, Neighbors Inc., Plan Takoma, Old Takoma Business Organization, and recently ANC4BO2's Design Review Committee.

Regarding my encouragement for you to support the VIP's request, I have been familiar with this business and it's owners for over 30 years and would like to point out several salient factors about this business.

First, I personally know the Sampson family and they are very spiritually based family that includes a Pastor, Deacon, and Sunday-School teacher. They also have been living in the community for well over 30 years and are very community oriented. Many of their business decisions evolve from a Spiritual foundation.

Second, the VIP room is not a Tavern in which the public can just come into and have a drink. The patrons that primarily come there contract to rent the facility for special occasions such as birthdays, graduations, anniversaries and the like. Because of the family's spiritual foundation, they are very careful as to the market demographic that they appeal to.

Third, several untruths have been maliciously spread about the operation of this facility. I would encourage the Board to examine the official police record of the number of documented incidents that have happened over the past 30+ years so as to get a complete picture of how this business operates. The harassment and untruths that have been spread have created a miasmatic and tenebrous environment in which the owners have been forced to operate within.

Finally, and more importantly, with the pressures of the changing demographic in communities in Washington DC I believe that it is critically important that our city support small African American businesses. These businesses represent the core of diversity as well as institutional history that should be retained and celebrated within our larger community.

Again, I urge the Board to support the request and thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

David L. Hamilton

**David L. Hamilton**  
**415 Aspen Street N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20012**  
**(202) 723 – 0731 - Home**  
**(202) 714 – 2552 – Cellular**  
**dlhamilton1@verizon.net**

### **Education**

Howard University, Bachelor of Architecture (Urban Design)  
Cornell University – Master of City and Regional Planning

### **National Capital Planning Commission**

David Hamilton has over 25 years as a Senior Urban Designer /Project Manager with the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal planning agency for the Nation's Capital. During his tenure, he specialized in urban design, monuments, and memorial project management. A selected list of monuments and memorials that Mr. Hamilton served as project manager include:

- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- World War II Memorial
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial
- Washington Monument Grounds Security Improvements
- Lincoln Memorial Security Improvements
- Jefferson Memorial Security Improvements
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Time Capsule Installation
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial inscription at the Lincoln Memorial
- George Mason Memorial
- Mahatna Ghandi Memorial
- Tomas Maserik Memorial
- Victims of Communism Memorial
- Marine Corps Museum
- Holocaust Memorial Museum
- National American Indian Museum
- Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
- South Quadrangle Development (African American Art Gallery and Sackler Art Gallery)

In addition to monuments, memorials, and museums, Mr. Hamilton served as project manager for major Master Plan development and large scale urban design projects that include, but not limited to:

- Southeast Federal Center Master Plan
- Walter Reed Army Medical Center Master Plan
- Washington Navy Yard Master Plan
- Bolling Air Force Base Master Plan
- Fort McNair Master Plan
- Anacostia River Park revised Subarea Plan
- National Zoological Park (Olmsted Walk Development)
- National Arboretum (Bonsai Complex and Display of Old East Front Columns of the U.S. Capitol)
- Union Station Adaptive Reuse Renovation
- National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Addition
- Goddard Space Flight Center Revised Master Plan
- Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Revised Master Plan
- Fort Belvoir Master Plan
- Federal Triangle Master Plan
- New York Avenue Special Street Plan

Mr. Hamilton was also responsible for managing chancery development at the International Center in Washington DC. Chanceries included:

- Pakistan Chancery
- Nigerian Chancery
- Austrian Chancery
- Slovakian Chancery
- Malaysian Chancery
- People's Republic of China Chancery

### **Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Association**

As Director of Housing Development and Research, Mr. Hamilton directed the agency's efforts in advocating for equitable affordable housing distribution and sound planning practices. Incubated and maintained citizen input to the planning process; wrote and presented testimony before local and federal agencies in Washington DC; and ensured that all citizens of the District of Columbia were considered and represented when new housing was developed.

### **Rural Housing Alliance**

As an Architect and Field Representative, Mr. Hamilton provided direct technical assistance to local non-profit organizations, state housing finance agencies and other organizations interested in sponsoring farm labor housing developments. Provided



assistance to grant recipients in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, and Tennessee.

### **University of the District of Columbia**

Served as an Adjunct Professor in the graduate school of Community and Urban Planning. Averaged two courses per semester for approximately 13 years.

### **Cornell University**

Participating alumni lecturer for the graduate school of City and Regional Planning. Primary lectures are focused on monument and memorial development in Washington D.C. Also provides National Mall urban design tours for classes visiting Washington.

### **Juries / Seminars**

Mr. Hamilton regularly serves on juries and provides lectures/seminars for universities and colleges that have included Cornell University, University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, University of Notre Dame, Catholic University, Florida A&M University and the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica.

### **Photographer**

Mr. Hamilton is a professional freelance photographer (Professional Photographers of America, ID # 211858). He maintains several continuing clients that include the Washington Architectural Foundation, and the National Center For Children and Families. He has also participated in exhibits in the Washington D.C area, Historic Annapolis, Sao Paulo Brazil, and Havana Cuba.

### **Consultant Services**

Mr. Hamilton also provides urban design consultations on the development of museums, memorials and public art. Some of his recent and current involvements include:

- Freedmen's Memorial Cemetery Development (Old Town Alexandria Virginia).
- Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project (Old Town Alexandria Virginia).
- National Association of Realtors on the development of the Ukranian Famine Memorial (Washington D.C.).
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Development (Washington D.C.)
- Design Selection Committee for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial (Washington D.C.).

- Selection Panel for Takoma Metro Station Mural Art Project
- Consultant with TRG International Consultants. Provided urban design analysis of United States' military cemeteries and related memorials in the Europe and Pacific arenas.

November 30, 2018

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

TO: The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
C/O Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

My family and I have been residents of Ward 4 for the past 49 years. We reside at 413 Van Buren Street, NW. When we moved into our home in 1971 the Sampson family had been residents of 604 Underwood Street, NW for the prior 8 years (since 1963). The Sampsons were already pillars of our racially transitioning Brightwood neighborhood when we moved in. Sam and Earline Sampson acquired the VIP Room shortly afterwards around 1972.

Sam and Earline were active members of Takoma Baptist Church and were instrumental in bringing my family into that church. Over the past nearly 50 years the Sampson family have invested their time, heart, soul, and family financial resources into transforming the VIP Room into an iconic institution within the Brightwood community as well as much of greater Washington's African American community. That community has come to rely heavily upon the VIP Room as a main venue of positive formal and informal family oriented social gatherings.

Sam Sampson passed away a few years ago. Immediately upon Sam's passing Earline and her adult children stepped in and invested a considerable amount of the family's resources into a total modernization of the VIP Room. The facility continues to be the pride of the Washington, DC African American community. Over the past decade the Brightwood community has been undergoing a very positive social and ethnic transition. The Sampson family-owned VIP Room sits on the portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street strip that has been re-zoned to insure the continuity of residentially compatible retail facilities.

I wish to join in with members of this community – long time residents as well as newer residents - who are in full support of the Sampson family's immaculately maintained VIP Room, inside and exterior. We have every expectation that the Sampson's will continue to be fully accorded all of their lawful rights to continue operating as a competitive community based enterprise. This includes their rights allowed under the laws, rules, and regulations of the DC government to serve their user-clients with adult beverages. The continuing operation of this impeccably kept community facility is a blessing and an asset that I believe has earned the admiration and respect of the Brightwood community.



Melvin L. Mitchell, Architect (DC ARC2203)  
413 Van Buren Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012

Mr. Clyde H. Cavanaugh  
6204-3<sup>rd</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
Phone: (202)-368-8583

December 1, 2018

The Board of Zoning Administration  
c/o Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am writing this letter in support of the Sampson Family, who is the owner and manager of The V.I.P. Room.

I reside at 6204-3<sup>rd</sup> Street N.W. Washington, D.C., 20011, which is **directly opposite** The V.I.P. Room. I have lived at this address for 26 years and 10 months. During that period of time, I have **NEVER** experienced or observed **ANY** problems with patrons of The V.I.P Room acting in a disorderly manner, engaged in any lewd or unsanitary acts or damaging any private property.

I am a retired Police Lieutenant with 35 years of service. I add this fact because had I observed **ANY** of the previously mentioned acts, I would have been the first one to lodge a formal and **immediate** complaint with MPDC, Fourth Police District!

I first met Mr. Sam Sampson, owner of The V.I.P Room, in June of 1988 when I was a part-time Limo driver. I had taken a Bride and Groom to The V.I.P. Room for their wedding reception. Mr. Sampson was very cordial and polite and treated me, not as a chauffeur, but as a member of the wedding party. I was very impressed with the way that I was treated by Mr. Sampson, not knowing that I would be moving into a house directly across the street from Mr. Sampson's establishment, four years later.

During the time that I resided at my current address, I became good friends with Mr. Sampson and fostered a great relationship with his eldest son, Mr. Bo Sampson. We would discuss events that were occurring in the neighborhood and events of the day.

Mr. Sampson told me that on several occasions, he had been approached by “persons” who wanted to purchase his property. Mr. Sampson told me that he would NEVER sell his building because he was leaving it to his family. Mr. Sampson later outlined his and the “family’s” future plans for The V.I.P. Room.

Prior to Mr. Sam Sampson’s passing, he and his family worked extremely hard to build a reputable, honest and respectable business with the community in mind! He never wanted to have his establishment turned into a bar, a tavern or any other venue that would be a distraction to his neighbors or the community, at large.

However, there have been “**many lies**” told about The V.I.P. Room such as, patrons throwing beer bottles in the yards of the surrounding neighbors, the establishment conducting illegal activities and the “**Damned Lie**” that the Sampson Family is SELLING DRUGS in their establishment!!! This makes No DAMNED SINCE!!!

The “**punks**” who are spreading these lies have no courage to come forward and make a formal complaint because they know this “crap” is “bogus!” They will make anonymous phone calls and spread rumors that are false just to try to put forth their agenda. And that agenda is the “**DISTRUCTION OF The V.I.P. Room!!!!**”

This nonsense has got to STOP!! If Sam Sampson were alive today, none of this “crap” would be happening! Sam made “no bones” about his feelings toward people. If he liked you – you knew it! If he didn’t like you – you damn sure knew it! Someone in the neighborhood of The V.I.P. Room has had, in the past, a negative experience with Mr. Sampson and now that he is deceased, they feel that they can now take out their anger and hatred toward the Sampson Family!

The false rumors and negative acts that these “evil people” are trying to perpetrate against the Sampson Family are not only ridiculous but border on “**CRIMINAL INTENT!!!!**” They are doing everything they can to cause emotional stress and the complete loss of an honest livelihood for the Sampson Family!

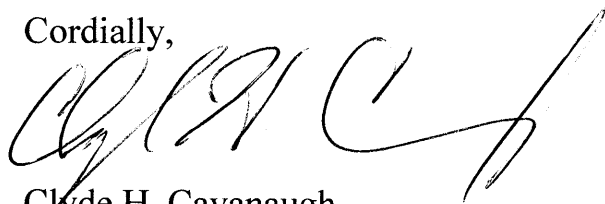
This “evil element” wants the Sampson Family to “give up” and “give in” and sell their property so that these “scum bags” can “step in” and take over The V.I.P. Room for their own selfish reasons and turn a respectable establishment into something that would become a “detriment” to the community!

However, when this “evil element” in the community is exposed (and they will), they must be prosecuted to the “fullest extent of the law” in a criminal or civil action for causing physical detriment and harm to the Sampson Family!

The Sampson Family is a very loving, religious and respectable family and they should NOT have to be put through the agony of physical stress and heartache that they have had to endure for the past five (5) years!

In conclusion, it is my hope that you, Mr. Frederick L. Hill, will see fit to grant the Sampson Family their request in the most expedient manner possible.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. H. Cavanaugh', written in a cursive style.

Clyde H. Cavanaugh

6616 Fourth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20012

The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Care of Mrs. Frederick Hill, Chairperson  
441 4th Street NW Suite 2005  
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Sir:

This letter is in support of the Sampson Family in their quest to obtain a license that will permit them to have a cash bar at the VIP Room.

We have known the Sampson family for many years. They are all Christian, God-fearing people. They have been falsely accused of selling drugs, and conducting illegal activities in or near the VIP Room. This is simply not true. They would never permit such activities.

The Sampson family members have been business owners in this same spot for many years. They should be allowed to continue conducting their business here without harassment from some of the people in this neighborhood.

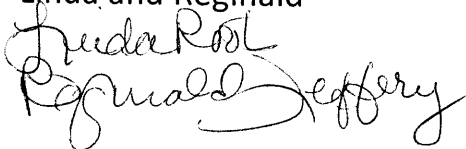
Very Sincerely,  
Raymond + Marika Ferrin

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

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

We are the neighbors of the Sampson Family, and we have lived next door to them at (6430 6<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012) for the past eighteen years. In those eighteen years, we have never seen or heard them being disrespectful or had any disruption within our neighborhood. It's well-known in our neighborhood that the "Sampson family" is a Christian family, and our neighbors and church members highly respect them as our friends. It is very sad and surprising that the Sampson family is still fighting over a zoning license to have an open bar at The VIP Room. The VIP Room is their place of business, which they have had for many years in our community. In the last two years, we have been invited to attend the VIP Room several times since the renovation. We have not encountered any disturbance or unruly patrons inside or outside since its opening. It is indeed a shame that the Sampson's must continue to fight and be discriminated against as a result of wrongful false and unethical statements to stop their zoning license. In closing, we are asking that you re-evaluate the refusal for the appropriate license or permits to allow them to be a competitive and fruitful business in our community. The Sampson have always been a well-known Pillar of the community and always willing to assist others. We hope you take into consideration that the VIP Room is not a Bar but an establishment that facilitates a variety of the community, family and social events.

Thank you,  
Linda and Reginald

Handwritten signatures of Linda and Reginald in cursive script.



Yasmin R. Lewis-White  
1321 Fern Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012

December 3, 20018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
C/O Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 2005  
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Chairperson Hill:

*I am writing to you to express my support and concern as it relates to The VIP Room which is located on 3<sup>rd</sup> St, NW, Washington, DC and the Sampson Family.*

It is my understanding that the Sampson Family has been trying to obtain a liquor license for some time now and their request have been repeatedly denied. While I am not certain of the reasons for the denials, it appears that this family is being subjected to unfair and unjust treatment. The Sampson Family is a long standing respectable black family that has and continues to serve the community. The Sampson's are active members of a local church (Takoma Park Baptist), they have attended school in the DC area, they have bought homes in DC, Michael Sampson has served as a voluntary basketball coach for DCPS for 15+ years, Gary Sampson is employed by the DC Fire Department, they have owned and operated a respectable business (The VIP Room) for years in DC.

I am concerned that when we do not fairly support long standing families such as the Sampsons', what message are we sending to the community, to the youth, and to long standing minority senior citizens. Has the council no loyalty or consideration to those that have maintained jobs, homes and businesses in the city. While I am in full support of the rejuvenation plans for the city and am looking forward to the continued growth and development, I am opposed to the disregard of respectable long term family owned businesses. Far too many are being forced out of the local communities that have depended on them for years. Why not allow this family to be a part of those rejuvenation plans, allow them to be able to expand upon their family run business, and continue to serve the community. The VIP room has

served as host for many church events, senior citizen parties, wedding anniversaries and other family like celebrations for years.

Are we a city that has succumb to gentrification and large development so much so that we have forgotten the meaning of community?

I respectfully ask the council to show its support and allow the Sampson Family the opportunity to continue to grow their family owned and operated business, one that has served the community respectfully for generations.

I trust that as a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Washingtonian, my voice will be heard and that my concerns will be considered.

Respectfully,

Yasmin R. Lewis-White

Vanilla P. Beane  
Bene' Millinery  
6217 Third Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011

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, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am writing this letter in support of the Sampson Family and V.I.P. Room located at 6201 Third Street, NW, Washington, D.C., which is a neighboring business to mine. Despite contrary information that you have received, and especially as a business owner in this neighborhood, I have personally observed the owners clean the surrounding area of the V.I.P. Room after events. The area is always maintained in a very clean manner, and I have never seen any trash remaining, vagrants sleeping or loitering on the premises.

Further, based on my personal observation as a neighboring business owner, and as a close personal friend of the Sampson family for over 38 years, rumors of illegal activities conducted at the V.I.P. Room are unequivocally false, and a sad attempt of character assassination. It saddens me to think that a person would slander the V.I.P. Room's and the Sampson Family's name in an attempt to destroy a legitimate family business that has been operating with high standards for decades, and also leads me to question his/her character. I am certain that the opponents of the V.I.P. Room cannot and have not produced any evidence of such illegal activity.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that you approve the Sampson Family and the V.I.P. Room's request for a license modification in an effort to remain competitive to similar venues.

Sincerely,



Vanilla P. Beane

December 1, 2018

To the Board of Zoning  
Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4th Street, NW Ste. 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Case No. 12799A  
Request for Modification of Consequence @ 6201 Third Street, NW The VIP  
Room

Dear Chairperson Frederick K. Hill,

My name is Minister Alfreda-Chi Mauuso, former ANC Commissioner of 4C01 & long time friend of the Sampson Family. Starting with the Father when he was running the business, who has sense passed.

I established business with him but have continued on with the family. I just want to make it known that the VIP Room has always been a respectable Black Christian business in our neighborhood who have survived over the years from the riots to assist the community for many free and paid community events.

This Family has always been in support of the government events, churches, organizations as well as weddings celebrations and much more. I m pride that this business is a shining light in our community. And in order to continue to survive they will need a cash bar license like other business' in occasion.

And, it is my honor to stand with the Sampson Family to echo their Professional Service they provide our community as well as keeping their property clean, & I dispute any complaints that may have come against them.

You my reach me at 202-520-8770, anytime, I live in the community @ 929 Sheridan St., NW, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fondly,

Minister Alfreda-Chi Mauuso

December 2, 2018

Creola Langley  
6700 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012

The Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4<sup>th</sup> 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

My family and I have lived in the community for a number of years and have a keen knowledge of the operation of the V.I.P Room. It has consistently served Our Community well. When the Parent-Teacher Organization needed a place to hold meetings, the V.I.P Room was available.

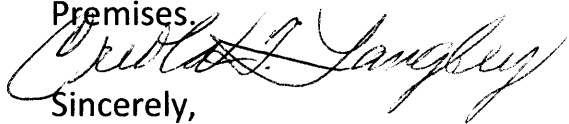
There were, also, other activities such as Community Christmas Parties, Physical Fitness and celebrations to bring people together in fellowship and unity.

The Sampson family is one of character and can be trusted to run the V.I.P Room in an orderly manner in accordance with the regulations as stipulated.

Therefore, based on the Sampson family's spiritual and moral presence in the community I strongly support their operation of "Cash Bar" on the Premises.

Sincerely,

Creola Langley



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

Carmen R. Henry  
14110 Jones Bridge Road,  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
Cell Phone Number: 708 829-3228  
Email Contact: [Carmenrhenry@gmail.com](mailto:Carmenrhenry@gmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

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

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am writing this letter in support of the owners of “The V.I.P. Room” (located at 6201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. Washington, DC 20011) request to allow their clients to have a cash bar on the premises.

Other establishments in the Washington D.C. Metro area such as: Martin’s Crosswinds and LaFontaine Bleue have these privileges that have serve to garner them continue success, as they strive to serve their clientele.

The “V.I.P. Room” along with other area businesses have serve the community well throughout the years. Serving as a place of pride as a local businessman with great drive and ambition in 1978 set forth on a personal mission. A quest to see his business dreams manifest and expand within the very community that he lived in. Providing for his family and setting the example for other entrepreneurs to do the same. Mr. Sampson achieved this feat within the community at a time when African Americans were politically and culturally leading the city with more than 70% of the population\*. What pleasure he must have felt to be a visionary and leader within his own community!

Mr. & Mrs. Sampson worked hard to instill a sense of community within each of their children (as evident in the numerous awards and accolades that they have received individually from numerous civic, social and religious affiliations.

Since 1978 the community has certainly changed. The V.I.P. Room closed in 2004, due to Mr. Sampson health challenges. Businesses that were once staples in the community closed as well, changes apparent in the still landscapes of pictures and stories of the past. However, a few businesses managed to maneuver themselves in a lane fueled with staying power, resilience, and strategic prayers. Coming up with ways to reinvent themselves and remain relevant in business and service to the community have always been paramount. This was certainly true with the renovation of the “V.I.P. Room” shortly after Mr. Sampson death in 2011 by his beloved wife Earline Sampson.

Re-opening the “V.I.P. Room as a family business! What a legacy! One that deserves a chance to thrive with the same privileges as Martin’s Crosswinds and LaFontaine Bleue in the community in which it is open to serve.

I am an entrepreneur with businesses spanning some 30 years of service. I understand what it takes to run a successful business and the importance to be able to meet your clientele’s needs to remain profitable.

I implore you to grant their request to continue to be a positive force within an already thriving community. It would be a shame for “The V.I.P. Room”, so deeply entwined in the community to be denied access to opportunities for growth. Please do not allow this business to wither away and die.

Sincerely Yours,



Carmen R. Henry

\*From Marya Annette McQuirter, African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC (Washington: Cultural Tourism DC, 2003).

RE: BZA Case No.12799A  
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Washington, D.C. 20011

Greetings:

I'm writing to express support for the VIP Room which has been an outstanding business in the community for more that the 2 decades I've resided in Manor Park/Brightwood.

~~The space has served customers for banquets, reunions, repasts, etc and not once have I been~~ aware of unlawful activity or behavior by the establishment or its customers. Those who are spreading malicious statements have ulterior motives -- to shut down the VIP Room.

Gentrifiers -- people who move into a community, ignore community history including its current residents--are not welcome here. They are the ones who fabricate stories of noise, excessive drinking, litter and other desirable behavior that no one would tolerate anywhere. If ~~gentrifiers can get enough people to believe the lies, our elected leadership will also.~~

We cannot allow newcomers to ruin our reputation as a solid, settled and harmonious community of longstanding residents. We cannot. Instead, we are going to fight against this smear campaign to shut down the VIP Room and instead transform it into a 21st Century meeting space for public service/civic events, as well as a commercial space for paying customers.

We know the VIP Room will work with us longtime residents to continue to build on its legacy as a reliable business in Manor Park, dedicated to serving all of DC and beyond.

Barbara Patterson  
Ward 4 422 Marietta PL NW



November 30, 2018

The Board of Zoning Adjustment

Care of Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson

441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 200S

Washington, DC 20001

Re: VIP Club

6201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW

Greetings Zoning Commissioner,

Last year attended hearing regarding VIP approval for liquid license. Was shocked as others when some people gave testimonies. Their testimonies reflected a banquet hall establishment wasn't familiar with. Lived in neighborhood since 1956. We had NW Gardens. Jackie's Lee, Ibex Club and first strip club, Macombo Lounge. VIP is not one of these clubs that has a weekly audience of patrons coming in. I often drive down 3<sup>rd</sup> Street see no traffic, or folks hanging around or hear music when banquet hall is in use. Neighborhood is a quiet area but maybe for new residents coming in may not have same standard of living we adjusted to. Owners of VIP Club work very hard to keep their premises clean of debris and all patrons when leaving their establishment are safely in their cars.

The letters and testimonies given to this Commission are attack on a well respected business in our community. I personally have attended many affairs. Recently celebrating Bene Hats down few doors from this premises where we celebrated Mrs. Bene 99 year old birthday and all businesses on the block contribute their time and food whatever was needed to make this occasion a memorable event.

It appears to many of us who are shocked at these negative remarks they are racist and do not want a African American business to continue in our neighborhood. As city is changing. It my hope that this body does not adhere to all negative complaints without first investigating if they are true.

Please give the VIP establishment whatever it is requesting so they may continue to operate as a first class business. Unlike other clubs in past such as Ellipse or Chateau whereby neighbors complain about parking – we do not have this problem. Parking is available on Sheridan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near school to ensure residents can park.

Please give us an update if more participation is needed from community.

Thank you,

Shealia Tyson [tyson2308@netscape.net](mailto:tyson2308@netscape.net)

202 850-2222

413 Marietta Place NW

Washington DC 20011

Re: BZA Case No. 12799A  
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 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr Hill,


I am writing this letter in support of the Sampson Family's request to allow clients who patronize the VIP Room to have a cash bar.

Over the last thirty years or so I have attended several family oriented events at the VIP Room and have always found both the interior and exterior of the facility to be clean and in order. The Sampson family has consistently operated the VIP Room as a respectable small business and should be afforded the opportunity to grow and thrive just as the city has encouraged larger entrepreneurs to grow and expand.

I have been a resident of the District of Columbia for more than fifty years and families like the Sampsons have helped this city to grow, having never left for the suburbs. They remained faithful to the city and stayed through some of the toughest times. Please grant their request.

I appreciate your sincere consideration.


Respectfully,

  
Karen L. McLeod

# Memorandum

**Date:** December 4, 2018

**To:** Board of Zoning Adjustment  
c/o Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson  
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**From:** Henry Morris, Jr.   
[friends1974@outlook.com](mailto:friends1974@outlook.com)  
301-452-1865

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

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I understand that The V.I.P. Room has asked the Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to offer a cash bar to its patrons. I understand, as well, that some have opposed the request, contending the Sampson family, which owns The V.I.P. Room, uses it sell drugs or engage in other illicit activities.

Not so. I've attended V.I.P. Room events. Each has been family oriented and conducted without even a hint of impropriety.

Plus, I've known the Sampson family for decades. They are honorable people with a well-deserved impeccable reputation. Engaging in the type of misconduct conduct of which they have been accused is antithetical to their character.

I urge you, therefore, to grant The V.I.P. Room's request. And, I invite you to contact me with any questions that you may have.

H.M.