

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

My husband and I, Albert and Margaret Crenshaw, have lived at 321 E. Capitol St SE since 1973. We reared our children here and plan to stay in our house as long as possible. We have been members of Capitol Hill Village since its inception, and while we will rely on Village services as we age, we are also aware that at some point we likely will need services available through an Adult Day Center. We strongly urge the Zoning Commission to recognize the aging demographics of the Hill and support the “Friends of Capitol Hill Adult Day Center” proposal as a public benefit in this PUD.

While the City has done a good job of recognizing and supporting the needs of children with modernizing city parks and upgrading schools, supporting commercial businesses of interest to young adults, and welcoming visitors to DC, our work with the Village has revealed some amazing gaps in programs for the elderly.

One, now before you, is Adult Day care. It is amazing to us that there are no adult day centers with memory care serving Ward 6. Ward 6 is home to 11,000 seniors, a population that is growing as more seniors, either through financial, health, or life choices, desire to remain in their homes and their community. According to census data, approximately 3,000 households on Capitol Hill and in surrounding neighborhoods have at least one senior who struggles to live independently. There is a critical need among this population for services to support both the senior and their family members, who are often the primary caregivers.

Our ANC6B commissioners and the resident members who serve on its Planning and Zoning Committee have recognized this need with their overwhelming support of our “Friends of Capitol Hill Adult Day Center,” and we thank them.

Now we seek support from the Zoning Commission, believing that the “Friends of Capitol Hill Adult Day Center” meets the requirements of a public benefit under the pertinent provisions of the Zoning Regulations.

Statistic after statistic shows how keeping the elderly in their homes, helping them manage the complications of aging, and encouraging them to remain physically active and socially engaged is a huge financial benefit to local communities, towns, cities, and states—an obvious one: they pay taxes and make no demand for more schools. But the elderly give back in ways far more than simply financial. They volunteer in schools, churches, and local activities, having both the time and interest to be “citizens” of their communities. They walk a great deal, improving the safety of neighborhoods. They babysit for stressed young couples, and they pick up trash on the sidewalks and streets. Most importantly, perhaps, they provide diversity to their neighborhoods.

And back to the financial impact of Adult Day Centers, they are less costly than in-home care, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

Finally, we encourage you to weigh the benefits provided by Adult Day Centers with the proffered benefit of the 1333 M St. SE development. The developer is asking for a lot; if those

requests are to be granted, we feel the developer in turn owes a lot to the community. The Adult Day Center is a much needed and important community enhancement.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Albert and Margaret Crenshaw  
321 E Capitol St. SE, DC 20003  
202-360-2257(cell); 202-546-4847 (home)  
crenshawm2@gmail.com; crenshawa2@gmail.com

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