



Good Faith Communities Coalition

Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia

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Outrage obscures need for housing for families who are homeless

FACTS: Providing for the most vulnerable in our community is a moral obligation we all share + there are no perfect sites, with no challenges to be addressed, for short term housing for families who are homeless in the District.

If you are a Ward 3 resident, consider sending a short statement in support of the Idaho Ave. site to the BZA ([letter attachment to an email](#)). Good Faith and 14 congregations in Ward 3 support the proposal for short term family housing in all wards, including Ward 3.



The Ward 3 short-term family housing proposed for 3320 Idaho Ave NW is part of an all-ward strategy to provide smaller living facilities for families who are homeless as they await permanent housing. With completion of the facilities, DC General, a decrepit building never meant for 240 families, will close.

The siting of the Ward 3 housing on Idaho Ave. has been contentious from the start. The Council approved this site and sites in other wards in June 2016. Almost immediately, the opposition formed. They clearly stated that though they didn't oppose housing for families who were homeless in Ward 3, the Idaho Ave. site was not appropriate.

The reasons for opposition began with the fact that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) had not been consulted on the selection of the site. Others feared that children who have been homeless, most likely traumatized by police, should not live near a police station, that the local school would be overcrowded, that the building at 6 stories was too tall for the neighborhood....

Those in favor of the facility also made their voice heard: there is no such thing as an ideal site in Ward 3. Though not perfect, the Idaho site would serve the "greater good" of the city in helping its most vulnerable residents. The sentiment most strongly articulated: it was important for Ward 3 to participate with every ward in the city in furthering this "greater good."



The [Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C](#) (ANC) at its meeting today (February 21st) will consider a resolution that at best will support the housing in Ward 3, but oppose the Idaho Ave site.

At its March 1 meeting the [Board of Zoning Adjustment](#) (BZA) will consider the variances and exception the City requires to build the facility, most significantly the height of the building from 3 to 6 stories and the temporary use of the tennis court area to stage building a parking deck.

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

On February 1, 2017, 857 families with 1767 children were living in shelter; 1401 single men and women also resided in shelters in DC.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten - Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.



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