Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C

April 4, 2017

Board of Zoning Adjustment of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA 19467 (638 Orleans Pl. NE)

Dear Members of the Board,

On March 8, 2017, at a duly noticed regularly scheduled monthly meeting of ANC 6C, with a quorum of six out of six commissioners and the public present, this case came before ANC 6C. The commissioners voted 6-0 to support the first revised application as set forth below.

The streetscape on this block in either direction consists of identical, and largely uncompromised, historic two-story rowhouses topped by parapet walls with projecting cornices. Under section 5201, one of the key considerations is that the addition “shall not substantially visually intrude upon the character, scale, and pattern of houses along the subject street frontage.”

ANC members felt that the new roof in the original application—proposed to be constructed in a contemporary style—was unduly intrusive to the streetscape character/scale/pattern on this block. However, the applicant’s architect provided revised drawings (subsequently filed as Case Exhibit 40) showing a more traditional front-elevation design with faux slate shingles and double-hung windows.

Other factors under the regulations, such as undue adverse impact on the air/light/privacy of adjacent structures, did not raise substantial questions. The applicant provided letters of support from each of the two abutting rowhouses.

Accordingly, ANC 6C is pleased to support the design shown to us on March 8, as reflected in the drawings in Case Exhibit 40. We have not reviewed (and thus have taken no position) any subsequent revisions to the application.

As part of its vote, ANC 6C authorized Commissioner Mark Eckenwiler (6C04) to present testimony on this case before the Board.
Thank you for giving great weight to the views of ANC 6C.

Sincerely,

Karen Wirt
Karen Wirt
Chair, ANC 6C