



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



May 19, 2004

Christel Nichols, Director
House of Ruth, Madison Building
5 Thomas Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re: House of Ruth Emergency Shelter (651 Tenth Street, NE)

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Our Commission is writing to alert you to concerns of residents associated with the House of Ruth Emergency Shelter located at 651 Tenth Street, NE. At a meeting of the ANC on May 13, 2004, the following concerns from neighbors of the facility were raised:

- Loitering on the G Street concrete stairs
- Loitering and sleeping by House of Ruth clients inside the Sherwood Recreation Center
- Suspected drug use and prostitution in the alley and on the sidewalks of the premises
- Excessive trash and garbage on G Street
- Lack of permits for the construction of a 6 foot chain link fence
- Need for repairs and tuck pointing on the buildings

Our Commission would like to take this opportunity to remind you of your responsibilities under BZA Order 15412 granting the special exception allowing this emergency shelter to operate in a residential zone. This order requires House of Ruth to establish an on-going liaison with the ANC and members of the community, and to meet with members of the community at least once per year. All property owners within 200 feet of the site are to be notified in advance of such meetings and invited to attend. Please be sure to provide adequate advance notice of any public meetings of at least 7 days to ensure maximum community participation.

Our Commission also recommends that House of Ruth establish a Neighborhood Advisory Council composed of neighbors, facility staff, and facility residents to meet on a regular basis to address these identified concerns.

If you have any questions or need further information, you may contact me at 202-423-8868.

Respectfully,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Sharon Ambrose