



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



June 26, 2007

Ms. Denise Wiktor
District of Columbia Department of Transportation
914 N. Capitol Street NE
Washington DC 20002

Re: Matter of Right Compliance of Mount Moriah Baptist Church Sign/Church Bulletin

Ms. Wiktor:

In our letter of March 23, 2007, we expressed our support for the placement of a sign on public space adjacent to the property of Mount Moriah Baptist Church. We would like to clarify that the support expressed in that letter relates solely to the placement of a matter of right sign on public space. It should not be interpreted to indicate support for the granting of relief for a structure that would not comply with matter of right criteria of signs or church bulletins as specified in DCMR Title 12.

The proposal presented to us by Mount Moriah describes a sign/church bulletin consisting of two panels each approximately 19 sq. ft., in an L shape configuration. Each panel would display non-stationary text in red LED lighting, the content of which would change with each cycle of the adjacent traffic signal light. We believe Mount Moriah's proposal fails to meet the matter of right requirements as specified in DCMR Title 12, Chapter 31A, Signs. To evaluate the matter of right compliance, it is necessary to first consider whether or not it would be defined as a sign or as a church bulletin per DCMR Title 12, Chapter 31. We find that the proposed sign/church bulletin fails to meet the matter or right criteria for both signs and church bulletins.

In a presentation to our community, Mount Moriah's pastor stated that the bulletin will display messages that would be inspirational in nature or would advertise church and community functions. Given the proposed message content, and the fact that the text will change a frequent intervals, it fails to comply with the matter of right criteria provided in DCMR Title 12, Chapter 31, Section 3107.4.1.5 Sign Copy, which states that copy on signs shall be limited to the address or name of the establishment, or both and the type of business conducted.

The proposed sign/church bulletin also fails to comply with the matter of right criteria of a church bulletin as provided in DCMR Title 12, Chapter 31 Section 3107.9.5. That section of the code limits the total area of church bulletins to 20 sq. ft. per church. With a total area of 38 sq. ft., the proposed structure would be almost twice the allowed limit.

Please consider these factors in your review of plans for the sign/church bulletin when they are presented to you. Our observations are based on the current information presented by Mount Moriah, which may change as Mount Moriah proceeds through the permitting process. We will continue to work with Mount Moriah to review and comment on plans as they become available.

On behalf of the Commission

Joseph Fengler, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Mr. Jose Colon, DDOT
Mr. Matthew Marcou
Mr, Juan Amaya
Mr. Matt LeGrant, DCRA

Mr. Dennis Anibaba
Pastor Lucius M. Dalton, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
Councilmember Tommy Wells