

From: Jonathan Levine
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2014 12:23 PM
To: Planning
Subject: I support the Jesuits' petition

To the Planning Commission: I urge approval of the Jesuits' petition for a special exemption at 1919 Wayne Street. I value openness and tolerance of a range of living arrangements in our neighborhoods and do not support the use of zoning to restrict these unduly.

In particular I reject the reasoning expressed in a [letter](#) requesting denial of the exemption dated April 27, 2014 and addressed to Planning and Development Services. The letter makes claims that are both illogical and offensive:

1) "The Jesuit Order is asking us for a Special Exception to our unalterable conviction that discrimination against women is wrong." The presumption here is that regulatory approval of a land use is tantamount to ideological endorsement. If this were the case the City would need to assess theology before approving church applications, or ideology before approving applications of political organizations. Zoning pertains to compatibility of land uses, not correctness of ideologies.

2) "We are also very concerned with the dismal record the Society of Jesus and Catholic Church have demonstrated regarding their practitioner's pedophilia, sexual, and other abuse of human beings, and not only the utter disregard of their own accountability, but active cover-up and avoidance of responsibility." Attribution of (presumed) characteristics of a group to all individuals within that group is stereotyping, and acting on the basis of such stereotyping is bigotry. This claim should be resoundingly rejected.

Sincerely,

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