

Please note:

An identical version of
Councilmember Jack Evans' Bill of B17-664
was reintroduced by
Councilmember Marion Barry as B17 -788.

Bishop Chane's Letter of April 17th follows:



DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane
Bishop of Washington

April 17th, 2008

Mr. George R. Keys, Jr.
Jordan & Keys, LLP
Suite 520
1400 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2217

Dear Mr. Keys:

I apologize for not returning your March 14th letter sooner. A combination of Holy Week, Easter, a House of Bishops meeting and family vacation have distracted me all too well from my workload.

I have read the briefing book prepared by Third Church's representatives setting out the pertinent background and legal rationale for the proposed amendment put forward by Councilman Jack Evans. I strongly support City Council Bill 17-664 as a legislative amendment to the Historic Preservation law retroactively bringing the local law into compliance with federal statutes. I understand that this will address the immediate problem presented to Third Church by removing the landmark designation and will also provide the opportunity for other religious institutions to object to such designation in the future on the grounds of "substantial burden on religious exercise."

I fully support the work of the downtown cluster of congregations and the Catholic Archdiocese Diocese of Washington in moving this forward. Likewise, Councilman Evans is a personal friend and I would be happy to do what I can to support his efforts in this. Please let me know how I can assist.

In Christ's Peace, Power and Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bryson Chane". To the left of the signature is a small cross symbol.

The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, D.D.
Bishop of Washington

cc: Canon Paul E. Cooney, Canon to the Ordinary
J. Darrow Kirkpatrick, Reader
Third Church of Christ, Scientist

JBC:jkt