**Regina James**
**Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 5B03**
**1363 Adams Street, North East**
**Washington, D. C. 20018**

April 17, 2005

Ms. Ellen McCarthy, Acting Director
D. C. Office of Planning
801 North Capital Street, NE Suite 4000
Washington, D. C. 20002

04-24

Mr. Richard White, General Manager
WMATA
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20001

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Greetings Ms. McCarthy and Mr. White,

I hope all is well with you, both. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. White, I received notice of Zoning Commission's public hearing.

I have a primary concerns regarding the proposed 200-car parking garage for WMATA. The proposed parking is insufficient to meet the high demands for our commuters at Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station, not only, for residents of the District, but our neighboring communities of Mount Rainer, North Brentwood, Peace Crossing, and the residents on the southern end of Route 450, in which, Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station is the closest station.

Currently, we have parking problem now, with the commuters of the District and Maryland using available spaces on the parking lot of Giant, Home Depot, and the surrounding neighborhoods, and heaven help us, when and if, the other store positions, itself, on the vacant lot and that retail is what the population desires.

The single most important complaint that I receive from MPD-Fifth District officers is the commuters using the parking lot on the Brentwood Development, as well as, from Giant and Home Depot. I am cognizant that MPD, Giant and Home Depot can not baby-sit the parking lot, it is wasted time, energy, and it becomes draining on the businesses and the community.

Presently, the parking lot at Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station is full at 6:45am, before the spill over takes place into the parking lots and surrounding neighborhoods. Some of us live three or two minutes from the station, and my neighbors admitted that they use the Brentwood Development parking lot, when WMATA parking is full.

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CASE NO. 04-24
EXHIBIT NO. 18

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I am of the opinion, that it is not the commuters desire to avoid paying for parking at Metro's Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station, its just that the parking lot is full before 7:00am.

I am aware of the city's desire for trans-oriented development, but it is not feasible at the Rhode Island Subway Station's location, Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station is highly used. If anything, it would seem that it will draw more people, especially, if the retail portion is in demand by the populous, we could have a parking nightmare.

Please re-think your respective position in the matter of WMATA's parking garage from the proposed 200 to at least 400 parking spaces. On Sundays, Mount Calvary Holy Church consumes the parking spaces at the Rhode Island Avenue Station, leaving very little spaces on the lot itself. Kiss and Ride is available, but if there is an event downtown, we have parking problems all over again. The District of Columbia does not live in a vacuum, and consideration should and must be made for all our people.

I am in the process of scheduling a Single Member District meeting, so that the residents will have an opportunity to express their issues of concern or approval on the proposed plans for the Rhode Island Avenue Subway Station.

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. White thank you for your time and attention in this area of concern. Hopefully, we will have an amiable resolution in this matter of parking.

Respectfully,

Regina M. James, ANC/SMD 5B03

Cc: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
The Honorable Carol Schwartz
The Honorable Jim Graham
The Honorable David A. Catania
The Honorable Sharon Ambrose
The Honorable Jack Evans
The Honorable Vincent Orange, Sr.
The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Commander Jennifer Greene
Mr. George Ross
Ms. Donna M. Jackson
Mrs. Carol Mitten

Geographics