

Rachel May  
1762 Kilbourne Place N.W.

**Zoning Committee Statement**

Good evening. My name is Rachel May, and I am a resident of the historic Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. I am currently a senior at the School Without Walls senior high school. For years, the school without walls has been a place for hundreds of the District's students to come and expand their minds. The institution has produced world leaders and influential members in every part of society. The School Without Walls has given greatly to its students, and the students have, in turn, given back greatly to the community. Now it is time for the cycle to be completed, and for this city to give back to the school. In these four years that I have attended our institution, there have been numerous rumors about reconstruction and relocation. In fact, there are stories from students ten years my senior conveying similar ideas. In the end, it has turned out that "rumors" is a perfectly fitting term for what has been going on. Several ideas have been thrown out, but no actual resolution has been achieved. The sad truth is, although Walls is home to some of this city's best and brightest, it is also in terrible condition. With leaky roofs, peeling walls, and floor damage in almost every classroom, our building does not reflect the image that our students work so hard to uphold. I can say from experience that it is highly distracting, and not conducive to my education, when half of a class period is spent worrying about where in the classroom students can sit without being "rained on." Worrying about whether students in Senior Diagne's room will fall through the floor to pay a visit to Ms. Pokorak is similarly unacceptable. The bottom line is, the students and teachers of the School Without Walls deserve better learning and working conditions. We all have been extremely flexible and resilient thus far, but it is time for a change. With a new building, we will not only be proud of the concept of the School Without Walls and its achievements, we can also be proud of our building. Speaking on behalf of myself, and many of my classmates, we are ready to be proud. We want to be eager to enter a building that we can call our own. Many of us spend more time in the week at school than at home, and should thus, be able to find comfort in either location. Help the School Without Walls to become a fine institution, both theoretically and physically. Approve our plan for reconstruction.

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
**District of Columbia**  
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CASE NO. 06-17  
EXHIBIT NO. 41