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Jim McCarthy
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 Washington DC 20015

November 15, 2010

D.C. Zoning Commission
 441 4th Street, Suite 220 (Via fax: 202-727-6072)
 Washington, D.C.

RE: Support for Case 08-06 – Parking (Comprehensive Zoning Regulations: Chapters B-15, B-16)

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Jim McCarthy. I live in Chevy Chase D.C. and serve as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 3G06. I am writing to express my support for the proposed changes to the DC Zoning code regarding vehicle and bicycle parking, especially the latter.

Besides being an ANC Commissioner, I work at the Library of Congress in my day job, and I commute by bicycle from Chevy Chase to Capitol Hill most days. I've been doing so for 25 years. The District has become a much more bicycle-friendly place in that time, with the proliferation of bike trails, bike lanes, bike share programs, bike access to Metro, etc. But it is still not as friendly as it might be, in part because of a shortage of safe, secure places to park one's bike at the end of the trip. Thus, I support the proposed regulations to increase bicycle parking.

My experience at the Library of Congress provides a case in point regarding the importance of such parking. When I started work at the Library's Madison Building in 1985, there was no bicycle parking on the block it occupies. After several years of petitioning for parking, bicycle commuters convinced the Library and the Architect of the Capitol to install eight bike racks on the block, providing space for as many as 40 bicycles. In the Madison Building garage, parking was also upgraded, providing another 20 or so spaces. The Library incurred very little cost in doing this, on the order of \$2,000, a fraction of what it costs to provide parking for a single automobile. Most days, these racks are completely filled. In short, the mere provision of racks made it possible for both visitors and employees to access the Library by bike. We've also convinced the Library to add showers and changing facilities, although not enough. Showers and changing facilities are critically important, and support not only bicyclists but also runners, walkers, and exercise in general. Installing such facilities when a building is constructed is critically important, as it is far more expensive to add them later.

These simple steps can lead to reduced driving, reduced air pollution, healthier life styles, and a more livable city. Thus, I am delighted to see the District moving in this direction through the proposed regulations.

I also support the proposed parking regulations to largely remove parking minimum requirements and institute maximum limits, to establish provisions for shared parking and requirements for carsharing spaces. These provisions are interrelated, discouraging dependence on car ownership and supporting a more diverse set of transportation options. The

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Washington area has made a huge investment in transit. That investment is supported by reducing the many current incentives to auto travel and ownership.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.


Jim McCarthy
ANC 3G06