

Mr & Mrs. Wade
2035 36th Street SE ♦ Washington, DC 20020

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSION of the District of Columbia
In support of the Development of Skyland Town Center
Thursday, February 4, 2010
441 4th Street NW,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for the development at Skyland. My husband and I are fairly new residents of Washington DC and Ward 7, which we moved to Southeast DC in May of 2005. In the past, I lived in areas where I conveniently shopped in my neighborhood. Having moved to SE DC, I have found that shopping and dining in my neighborhood is a limited option. I spend a large portion of my time shopping and dining in Capital Hill, NW DC or Virginia. These areas, in my opinion, have safe and inviting retail shops. In addition, many of these areas offer mixed used development that is convenient and does not create unbearable traffic congestion. What saddens me, is the challenges of retail shops coming to areas similar to Ward 7 and 8.

As a resident of Ward 7, I do NOT shop in Sklyand shopping center. At minimum, I do go to the Good Hope Market Place Safeway from time to time to pick up several items. I am disappointed in the manner in which the current Skyland shopping center is presented. It is not inviting or safe in appearance; and the variety of retail shops is limited. There are NO sit-down restaurants.

A new, mixed-use shopping center with convenient parking would be a welcome improvement over what is available now and would complement the improvements accruing in the community. In addition, a mixed-use shopping center would bring more jobs to SE and the surrounding DC area via the building and operations of the businesses. It would increase homeownership for many residents and new residents to DC. It would offer residents an opportunity to feel economically empowered by the positive changes and growth for our community. A mixed-use shopping center would offer residents an opportunity to live, work, and play in their community via homes, jobs, and retail that includes at least one sit-down restaurant. Let's eliminate the "Broken Window Theory" in Skyland and allow residents an opportunity to be empowered. Please approve the Skyland Town Center Plan Unit Development application.

Thank you.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 09-03

EXHIBIT NO. 92