

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE DC ZONING COMMISSION

February 4, 2010

By

Eugene Dewitt Kinlow

Ladies and Gentlemen, My name is Eugene Dewitt Kinlow and I am here to share brief comments in support of the Skyland Town Center Concept, and I am also here to urge you to move this plan from concept to reality.

For the record, I am a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia and have been a resident of Ward 8 for more than 40 years. I reside at 3952 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC.

I've personally attended numerous Skyland development community meetings over a number of years. I see wide spread support for the redevelopment of Skyland, based on a tremendous need for good, services and jobs in our river east communities. Support for this plan is tied to the thought that our community deserves more than the meager selection of services and amenities that we currently have. We deserve a well thought out concept on the 18 acre site that delivers access to services, amenities and jobs. Our community deserves a proper mix of national-brand retailers, neighborhood serving shops, restaurants and affordable and quality housing. Such a mix could provide greater stability to our communities and add much need dollars to our tax roles.

It goes without saying that such a plan must be well thought out and address community concerns. I and the community support a plan that incorporates landscaping, trees, scrubs, and environmentally friendly buffers to meet high environmental and protection standards for the site. In regard to transportation elements, I support the proposed improvements to the streets and traffic including improved pedestrian crossings, traffic signals and improvements at the various

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District of Columbia

CASE NO. 09-03

EXHIBIT NO. 93

intersections. I also encourage a continuous dialogue with the city government to evaluate and enhance transportation planning efforts over time. The Developers have worked with the District government understand that as they continue to analyze transportation and traffic issues and propose additional improvements including parking.

I believe that the Skyland Town Center development is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's land use and urban design provisions and I am confident that the developers will protect the property and views of the Fort Baker Drive neighbors. I urge the Zoning Commission to approve this project expeditiously.