



**Testimony of Absalom Jordan Commissioner
ANC 8D03
Before the
Zoning Commission For The District Of
Columbia
In Case No. 12-08**

October 18, 2012

ZONING COMMISSION
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Chair, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening. There are but three areas of concern that I wish to address about the proposed zoning for the East Campus of St. Elizabeths.

First I want to state that I have participated in over ninety percent of the meetings held by the Office of Planning and ANC 8C over the years regarding development at St. Elizabeths. I was a part of the Friends of St. Elizabeths group back during the Barry and Dixon administrations. We sought to insure that development at St. Elizabeths would be consistent with the site as a historical medical facility and that building on the site would have minimal negative impact on the surrounding community.

Starting back in 2002 there was a series of meetings that have continued to this day about development on the St. Elizabeths site. The proposals for the East Campus have not been driven by the community but our input has in some limited respects been considered. I would like to address those areas where there is contention with the Office of Planning's proposal.

First there is the matter of the chapel in StE-7 Zone District. At every meeting I have attended the community has always demanded that the chapel should remain where it currently is. We were told by representatives from the Office of Planning that preference would be given to maintaining the chapel in its present location. However, the proposed Zoning District for the chapel does not insure the preservation of the chapel on the site. I support the resolution of ANC 8C for recognizing the chapel as a landmark. Just like the Big Chair a landmark in the Anacostia community the Chapel is a landmark for the Congress Heights community and I request that you honor the wishes of the community.

My next concern is with the StE 17 & 18 Zone Districts. The Office of Planning is proposing a maximum height for 17 of 70 feet and for 18 a maximum height of 90 feet. This is at the intersection of 13th Street and Alabama Avenue. My house is located one block away at 13th and Savannah Streets. This is a low density residential community and the heights proposed for the two Zoning Districts are incompatible for this

area. I would request that the heights for both of the Zone Districts be reduced to a maximum of 60 feet. This would preserve the character of our neighborhood.

Finally, I would request that the maximum height for the StE 2 Zone District be limited to 80 feet. This would make the height consistent with that in StE 3 which is contiguous to the StE 2 Zone District.

Again I would like to thank you.