

WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20373-5815

2 October 2002

Frank Mathis, Jr.
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Carol Mitten, Chair
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Mitten:

The White House Communications Agency (the "Agency") is responsible for providing telecommunications support (within the United States and abroad) to the President, Vice President, White House Senior Staff, the National Security Council, the U.S. Secret Service, and other groups.

It is absolutely essential that these high-ranking government officials have instant and reliable access to the finest, most technologically advanced forms of telecommunications, especially wireless communications. Therefore, the White House Communications Agency, Telecommunications Certification Office has a vital interest in securing the provision of **ubiquitous** wireless coverage throughout the District of Columbia and supports the stated goal contained in the District's Office of Planning Report to the Zoning Commission that "the purpose of the regulations is to... accommodate the growing demand for telecommunications facilities and antennas."

Toward the goal of ensuring adequate wireless capacity and coverage for White House officials and personnel, this office has worked with the District's wireless providers to locate wireless antenna and facilities in the immediate vicinity of the White House, as well as along routes to federal buildings, embassies, airports (including Andrews Air Force Base), and Camp David. Despite the Agency's ongoing cooperation with the wireless industry, numerous wireless "dead spots" (due to either the lack of an antenna site or antennas that have reached their capacity to transmit calls) persist, resulting in unacceptable dropped calls or calls that cannot be completed. Thus, expanded wireless coverage resulting from robust deployment of wireless industry facilities is a priority for the Agency. For example, this activity successfully petitioned a District Wireless carrier to install a Cellular tower on the Veterans Affairs Building on "H" Street N.W. to resolve a "dead spot" issue in the vicinity of the White House.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 01-02
Exhibit 125

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.01-02
EXHIBIT NO.125

Accordingly, as the District of Columbia's Zoning Commission considers amendments to its zoning ordinance, the White House Communications Agency, Telecommunications Certification Office respectfully requests that the Commission consider the Agency's efforts to provide dynamic, state of the art communications service to White House officials and personnel throughout the District. The Commission can best achieve this goal by enacting an ordinance that does not create unnecessary obstacles to a complete and robust deployment of wireless service in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for the Commission's consideration of this office's comments on this important issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Mathis, Jr." in a cursive style.

Frank Mathis, Jr.
Chief, White House Communications Agency
Telecommunications Certifications Office