



**PROVIDENCE
HOSPITAL**

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October 14, 2002

01-02

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chair, D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I would like to add my comments to the public record regarding amendments being considered by the D.C. Zoning Commission related to wireless telephone service.

As noted in the October 10, 2002, Washington Post, incidents of domestic violence have been rapidly escalating in an area east of the Anacostia River in D.C. In response to this crisis, a high-tech domestic violence center will open this month at Greater Southeast Hospital, helping victims of domestic violence obtain temporary protection orders. Last year, there were 3,738 orders filed, and more are expected this year.

What does this have to do with wireless service? If you're a victim of domestic violence, even common tasks can be intimidating; things that require real courage - like obtaining a protective order - are downright terrifying. No victim of domestic violence should worry as she dials her wireless phone about whether or not her call will go through.

As someone who treats victims of domestic violence every day, I can tell you that battered women feel empowered by the simple fact that they carry a wireless phone. It is one of their most important safety nets.

In 2001, there were more than 57 million wireless 911 calls, many from battered women seeking protection for themselves and their children. Obviously, for the public to have the increasing benefits of cell phones, we must work to ensure that those phones work in all parts of the city. This coverage will save lives.

I would strongly recommend that the Zoning Commission do everything in its power to ensure increased wireless access and coverage across the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Kim Bullock, M.D.
Vice Chair, Emergency Department

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 01-02
Exhibit 68