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April 28, 2005

RE TAKOMA OVERLAY ZONE

Dear Ms Mitten

I live at 6700 4th Street, NW in Takoma, DC I am writing to express my concerns with the development around the Takoma Metro station

A couple of years ago when District planners began meeting with area resident to discuss "smart growth" around the Takoma Metro station, I was relieved to see that there were plans to build residential housing and commercial development. Having bought my house in DC in 1997, I welcomed the thought of anything that would economically benefit the area–I was tired of picking up crack bags and broken bottles in front of my house I fantasized about being able to walk up the street to eat in a decent restaurant or grab a morning bagel and a good cup of coffee. Ahh--sweet middle class normalcy

I welcomed the Takoma House Coop and was thrilled to see groundbreaking on the commercial/ housing developments next to the Takoma Metro. But I also now know what it's like to drive up to Silver Spring and witness the Virginia-like traffic that spawns traffic cops in parking lots, there simply to keep fist fights and fender benders from happening I DO NOT WANT THIS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD I am not convinced that further plans to develop more high density housing and commercial development around the Metro will benefit anyone in this area. I do not want "smart growth" to become a euphism for overcrowded high density development that in the end, benefits the developers and the City's coffers at the expense of our community.

Traffic congestion directly impacts quality of life. I moved to this neighborhood so I could walk to a village as a way to conduct my daily business When people visit me the first thing I show them in the area is charming downtown Takoma. The park in front of the Metro with its sweeping lawn signals that this is an urban community some how away from the fray. It is nothing less than a symbol of our identity Our brand. Do not take that from us In helping us to help Takoma grow, listen to the voices of people who prize this community for what it isn't as much as what it is. Takoma is not about being like everywhere else Don't pave our paradise to put up your parking lot

Sincerely,

Jane Lueders

202 667.6777

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 04-16
EXHIBIT NO. 48

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