

Testimony Before the Zoning Commission

Support for the Campaign for Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning proposal,
Case No. 04-33 "Text Amendments To Require the Provision of Affordable
Housing – Inclusionary Zoning"

By Stephen Wade
Resident of Mt Pleasant/Columbia Heights in Ward 1
July 25, 2005

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today, Commissioners

I am testifying on behalf of myself, as a resident of Mt Pleasant/Columbia Heights in Ward 1

I live in one of D C.'s great neighborhoods The neighborhood is racially and economically diverse. The streets are safe because they are vibrant and alive with people walking, biking, and riding buses The stores are local, eclectic, and successful because of this same vibrancy

Unless this diversity and intensity of activity is maintained, diversity of race, income, interest, background, language, music, Mt Pleasant/Columbia Heights will no longer have the characteristics that make it the safe and special community that it is

I see the Campaign's proposal as an essential policy that will help my neighborhood, and many others, retain their uniqueness while growing and changing during this unprecedented development boom The Campaign's proposal reaches lower income families The people who work in my apartment building and community should be able to live in the neighborhood Also, the Campaign's proposal requires that the affordable housing be built on site It is important to me that people of various income levels live next to each other, not just down the street This relationship and exchange represents an important principle for the District.

Since my neighborhood has a number of older residential buildings, I want rehabilitated buildings to be included in this policy so that a reasonable number of them can be offered for moderate and low-income households

I want more people living in my neighborhood, more people walking on my streets Most importantly, I want everyone to have the choice or opportunity to live in Mt Pleasant/Columbia Heights

Please endorse the Campaign's policy to help make this happen.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 59
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