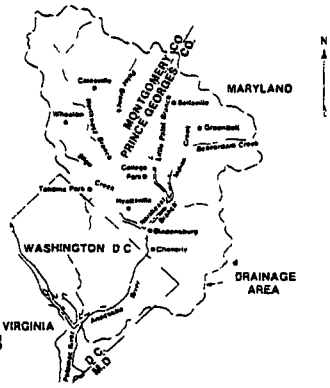
START THE ANACOSTIA RESTORATION TODAY

Anacostia Watershed Society

(301) 699-6204 Fax (301) 699-3317
Email robert@anacostiaws org
http //www anacostiaws.org



Testimony Of James F. Connolly, Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Society In Support Of Zoning Code Changes In Case No. 04-34 Concerning The Use Of Pervious Pavement

Good Evening. My name is James F. Connolly, and I am the Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society, a local, non-profit environmental organization that is working to restore the health of the Anacostia River to a swimmable and fishable condition. The watershed (drainage basin) of the river comprises 176 square miles of land in portions of the District of Columbia, as well as portions of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. Much of this land area is covered with impervious surfaces in the form of roads, parking lots and rooftops It is said that when a watershed is more than 10% impervious, the water quality of its streams and river will be impaired. The Anacostia River watershed is more than 50% impervious in many sections, particularly in the District of Columbia. As a result, the Anacostia River is severely impaired.

Stormwater runoff is *the* main pollutant that is polluting the Anacostia River, creating very poor water quality. Stormwater brings trash from the streets into the river, as well as oils and greases which drip out of our cars, and harmful nutrients which settle onto our streets from airborne deposition of hydrocarbons. Also, the velocity of stormwater serves to scour the banks of the streams feeding the Anacostia, causing severe erosion of soil from the shores which results in massive sedimentation of the river. Impervious surfaces also absorb and hold heat, which is then transferred into the river water via the superheated stormwater runoff. Hot water has less capacity to hold oxygen. The hot stormwater entering our rivers impairs water quality, making it difficult for living organisms to thrive in our urban waterways such as the Anacostia, Potomac and Rock Creek. **All of these impacts are the direct result of the acres of impervious surfaces that have been installed in our built environment.**

The Anacostia Watershed Society supports the efforts to allow the use of pervious pavement and paver blocks throughout Washington, DC. This important zoning change will allow progressive developers and concerned citizens to provide ways for damaging stormwater to filter back into the soil, where it naturally belongs, as opposed to it being sent directly into a stormdrain pipe which is connected to the nearest stream. This is a good first step. However, if the District of Columbia is **serious** about cleaning up the Anacostia River and in reducing its impact to the Chesapeake Bay, use of pervious pavement and pavers needs to be a **mandatory** requirement. Every possible step must be taken to allow stormwater to infiltrate into the soil, including pervious pavement, use of paving blocks, disconnection of gutter downspouts, and the installation of rain gardens, bio-swales and green roofs throughout the city. These types of protections for our waterways can be achieved through important zoning code changes such as the one being considered today for pervious pavement.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case No. 04-34
Exhibit No. 22
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EXHIBIT NO.22