COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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04-34

June 29, 2005

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress, Director
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

By mail and facsimile

Dear Ms. Kress,

I recently received a letter from Ms. Gail Montplaisir, a Washington, DC resident and president of the Taurus Enterprise Group, Inc., concerning her support for a change to zoning regulations to allow for the use of pervious pavement in the District of Columbia in certain spaces. Ms. Montplaisir states that the implementation of pervious pavement would allow for the absorption of storm water through the pavement and into the soil underneath. I would like to voice my support for this proposed change to the zoning regulations and urge you to consider enacting this change.

Thank you for your time and interest. I await your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Patterson

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.04-34
EXHIBIT NO.27

Pagano, Penny (COUNCIL)

From: KathyPatterson (COUNCIL)
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 4 06 PM
To: Pagano, Penny (COUNCIL)
Subject: FW: Zoning Commission Public Hearing on Pervious Surfaces

could someone do a letter for me per this exchange -- to the Office of Zoning, maybe ask Phil M if he wants to co-sign as a known Green on the Council? Thanks.
-----Original Message-----
From: Gail Montplaisir [mailto:gail@taurusdev.com]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 3:53 PM
To: 'KathyPatterson (COUNCIL)'
Cc: 'Spencer, Nanette (COUNCIL)'
Subject: RE: Zoning Commission Public Hearing on Pervious Surfaces

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for your quick response.

I do think that it would be beneficial to have a letter from you. As you certainly know, the wheels of the Zoning Commission do not work very quickly... The support would be greatly appreciated and would help to move them toward making this change which will be of great benefit to DC in the long run. You may be surprised, as was I, to find out that gravel is not allowed to be used for drives and parking spaces in DC under the regulations as they currently exist... I know that my house had a gravel drive for years before we changed it to an impervious surface...

It will be great to see many of the new pervious paving products available be used both by private citizens as well as developers throughout the city.

Again, your support in the form of a letter would be appreciated.

Best regards,

Gail

Gail Montplaisir - President
Taurus Enterprise Group, Inc.
2311 15th Street NW, Unit 1
Washington, DC 20009
Office: 202-462-4904
Fax: 202-462-4906
Website: www.taurusdev.com
MSN Messenger ID: gail@taurusdev.com

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From: KathyPatterson (COUNCIL) [mailto:kathypatterson@dccouncil.us]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 3:47 PM

To: 'gail@taurusdev.com'
Cc: Spencer, Nanette (COUNCIL)
Subject: RE: Zoning Commission Public Hearing on Pervious Surfaces

Thanks Gail. This sounds like a no-brainer to me The Council doesn't have a role, officially anyway, in these kinds of decisions, but if you think it'd be useful for me and/or other Councilmembers to do a letter to the Office of Zoning in support, I'm happy to do so Just let me know Thanks

-----Original Message-----
From: Gail Montplaisir [mailto:gail@taurusdev.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 4:23 PM
To: kpatterson@dccouncil.us
Subject: Zoning Commission Public Hearing on Pervious Surfaces

June 9, 2005

Dear Councilmember Patterson:

As you may know, the Office of Zoning has scheduled a public hearing on next Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. to review a proposed change to the zoning regulations in regard to pervious (as opposed to impervious) pavement usage in the District of Columbia.

As a Washington, DC resident, an active BCAC and ZAC member, and, developer since 1980, my core focus remains eco-friendly building techniques, environmentally sustainable architecture and best management practices.

Background:

The District of Columbia to date has allowed only impervious paving surfaces as defined in the Zoning Regulations (not the Building Code.) This policy was first implemented in the 1930s as a means of preventing gravel from parking spaces, drives, and other areas from ending up in the streets and the storm sewers.

An amendment to the regulations has been proposed to allow pervious paving to be used in certain circumstances, for example, private drives, parking spaces on private property and parking lots. This would help to absorb a significant portion of the storm water within the site and eventually within the city limits if it is used by a significant portion of the population.

Pervious paving works by utilizing pavers that have a hollow section inside that can be filled with a pervious material to allow storm water to filter down into the sub-grade and be absorbed into the soil. There are also back-up systems put in place to handle excess storm water that has not been absorbed into the soil during a major rain event and then is held on site temporarily before being released into the combined public system.

The recommended amendment does not change the regulations for parking garages which will still have the standard requirements of impervious surfaces.

I would be delighted to meet with you at your earliest convenience to briefly discuss the issues and benefits of pervious pavement. Also, the attached "Appendix A: Examples of Pervious Paving Materials in the Marketplace" compiled by David Bardin might be helpful as a quick reference to this highly sustainable and environmentally friendly solution.

I will contact your office to arrange a convenient time for us to meet within the next week, if your schedule allows. Meanwhile, I can be reached at 202-462-4904.

Thank you in advance for your attention and serious consideration of supporting the withdrawal of paving issues from the zoning regulations.

Regards,
Gail Montplaisir

Ps Kathy, Norman and I both send our greetings to you, Dale, Patrick and Gillian, dogs, too. Hope that you are all well and holding down the corner at 38th and Military. We would love to see you some time as your hectic schedule allows.

Gail Montplaisir - President
Taurus Enterprise Group, Inc.
2311 15th Street NW, Unit 1
Washington, DC 20009
Office: 202-462-4904
Fax: 202-462-4906
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