

TESTIMONY BEFORE ZONING COMMISSION
3/31/05 CASE # 05-01

I am Rudolph Knott Jr., the ANC Commissioner for 5A10. I take this opportunity to voice my opposition to new facilities such as the so called treatment centers or residential based facilities being established in residential neighborhoods as a matter of right. My constituents and I feel that these facilities are inundating our communities. I certainly understand the need for treatment and care for our citizens, but I feel that our communities have a right to be informed when, where and by whom these kinds of establishments are planted in our neighborhoods. It appears to many of us that the Govt. of the District of Columbia does not have a handle on these facilities as is. And as the Govt. doesn't even seem to be able to provide our constituents with the locations of the current facilities, how can there be effective oversight ensuring that they do not negatively impact residential neighborhoods? My commission, ANC5A, has recently passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on any more such facilities in Ward Five until we can get a citywide accounting of all establishments of this kind. I think that if we want our citizens to support these establishments, we need to make sure that the community has some meaningful input into such proposals. We must ensure that the contractors, who provide these services, do not do so to the detriment of our communities. Our citizens need to be empowered to effect change if there is negligence on the part of the providers. In order insure that communities are properly notified and included in future plans, I oppose any changes in regulations that would allow providers to more easily establish facilities without having to go before the community in forums such as these.

Thank You
Rudolph Knott Jr.
ANC 5A10

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Exhibit 6