



COALITION FOR SMARTER GROWTH

Testimony before the District of Columbia Zoning Commission regarding:

SUPPORT for Final Approval of PUD and Related Map Amendment,
“Parkside” Case No. 05-28C

by Cheryl Cort, Policy Director
May 5, 2011

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. My organization works to ensure that transportation and development decisions in the Washington, D.C., region accommodate growth while revitalizing communities, providing more housing and travel choices, and conserving our natural and historic areas.

I have worked to promote a safer, more walkable and vibrant downtown Ward 7 for over 6 years. I am pleased to testify in support of the final approval of the Parkside PUD. This follows testifying in support of the original PUD in 2006. The modifications to the original PUD are not only reasonable, they capture a number of new opportunities for the community and the city. First, locating a major campus of the Community College of the District of Columbia is a great benefit to Ward 7, and east river communities by providing new higher educational opportunities close to home. Given the other K-12 educational institutions in this promise neighborhood, the addition of CCDC creates a new center of learning in Ward 7. Trading a residential use for an educational use also diversifies the activities in the area, offering new employment opportunities, retail patrons and interested visitors. This new vitality would not exist if the community were solely residential. Higher education is a great addition to a community as it offers employment and attracts visitors at different times of day.

Increasing office space in the plan also takes advantage of the expansion of the Central Employment Area defined by the General Services Administration. CEA designation better positions the city to land a major GSA tenant and bring good paying jobs to the community. These jobs will also support more retail and better quality retail.

Given the positive modifications for this PUD, we ask that the Commission approve the PUD and related map amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 05-28C

EXHIBIT NO. 56