

## Alisa A. Woods

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May 5, 2011

Anthony J. Hood, Chairperson  
District of Columbia Zoning Commission  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 210-S  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Hood:

I Alisa A. Woods, the former ANC-7D07, 7D Chairperson, and homeowner in the Parkside Community is testifying tonight in support of the DC Primary Care Association and Community College of the District of Columbia (CCDC).

As a community leader and homeowner of Parkside Community for over 20+ years, I've seen this community in oppression for many years. This community has a great opportunity to rise above the ashes and gain a sense of respect and responsibility. When someone takes responsibility they are being accountable for one's actions and striving to enhance their community to raise children in a community with promise and not a disaster zone. Not to mention, a sign of peace and relief for our senior's.

According to the **DOSOMETHING.ORG** – "Ward 7 is one of Washington, DC's neediest neighborhoods containing low socioeconomic students that are mostly African American and Hispanic/Latino." Ward 7 students between the ages of 16 – 19 years of age constitute 11% of the high school dropout rate; which consist of one of the highest in the district. Not to mention, 29% of the population above age 25 does not have a high school diploma; which statistics reveal this is above the district average. Ward 7 Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are below the national average in math and verbal testing.

Ward 7 students are rapidly dropping out of high school and not considering postsecondary professions which is a prerequisite in today's society (such as: information-based economy/job market). These statistics clearly identifies a need to create and improve academic opportunities within Parkside and surrounding communities. These issues can be addressed with the consideration of bringing additional resources to Parkside in the form of undergraduate and graduate education. CCDC will be instrumental to Parkside Community, because they will bring revitalizing energy that can empower students and support the administration as they make commitments to improve education in the Parkside community and Ward 7.

I believe in life and not destroying someone's life; therefore, whatever legitimate measures that should be taken to approve these projects and/or any project with substance in the Parkside community is worth fighting for the approval from higher authority. Parkside is a "Promise Neighborhood" and those who continue to prevent individuals from living should be silenced and not be allowed to demonstrate a forum of division on a continuous basis. These are projects that have been ordained for this season and for those who believe in development and transformation. Colossians 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

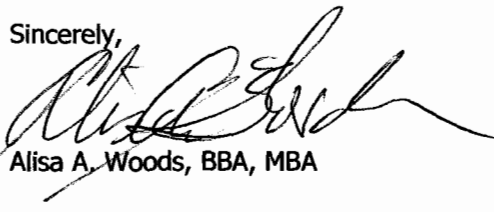
Without a shadow of doubt the Parkside community and Ward 7 has a great need for improving quality of care. In the RAND Report there is proven indicators that adults Diabetes percentage rate is 12.2%; 12.2% of Asthma; 65.4% Obese/Overweight; 16.6% Disability; 77% HIV/AIDS; 166% Cancer and so forth. The health status among children in Ward 7 percentage rate for dental problems is 8.6%; at risk for being overweight is 19.4%; behavioral health issue needing treatment 12.0% and the list continues. All this is to say, Parkside has a great need for a health facility that provides quality improvement training and technical assistance to member health centers and intertwining a culture of quality into the foundation of a community that will be a beneficial factor to improve the health risk of our constituents.

The many individuals who have expressed themselves with opposing these projects should consider these facts mentioned above before casting a vote to dismantle Parkside development that the potential purpose is to enhance the quality of life. I believe there is a lack of understanding and communication within the leadership of ANC-7D Commission and individual's outside of this proximity that should be clarified amongst each other. But in spite of an individual's difference it should not affect a community's growth.

Dialoguing with many constituents in the Parkside community, I've learned they prefer to have a mix-use development than an additional 4000 – 5000 homes in this community. It does not bring a sense of promise nor revenue that's needed so desperately in our community and district. These projects will be the answer to many prayers; especially individual's who've been unemployed for many years and striving to keep faith, love and hope within their family circle.

Thank you for your time tonight with listening to the plea of many who are crying, but cannot speak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alisa Woods', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alisa A. Woods, BBA, MBA