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DC OFFICE OF ZONING

September 15, 2006

Zoning Commission
Attn Sharon Schellin, Secretary
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200 South
Washington, DC 20004

2006 SEP 18 PM 2: 51

ZONING COM
District of C

CASE NO. 06-06
EXHIBIT NO. 90

Dear Ms. Schellin:

Zoning Commission case 06-06 is a deeply flawed proposal that would dramatically change the ways that small schools and early education centers could operate in the District. We collectively advise the Zoning Commission not to adopt it as a final rule because greater care should be taken to accommodate the interests of affected stakeholders. We believe the Office of Planning could, and should, improve the proposal by engaging in outreach efforts that would enable *all* affected communities — not just the special interests who initiated these changes — to provide input. Given the city-wide impact of this rulemaking, and the tensions it will create with existing education policy, anything less would bring into question the integrity of D.C.'s rulemaking processes. Taking action on this proposal later this month would exacerbate the disturbing pattern of rushing this flawed proposal through the administrative process to the detriment of families and children in the District.

We strongly oppose the adoption of ZC Case No. 06-06 and collectively request the following actions be taken in regards to the proposed 06-06 zoning amendments:

1. Update the Zoning Code to define charter schools as public schools; this would suffice to solve the only purported problems ever identified as being fixed by the emergency rule that was first adopted in February.
2. Remand the balance of the proposed text amendments back to the Office of Planning and demand they hold a series of public meetings throughout the city to solicit inputs from all stakeholders (neighborhoods, schools, early education centers, DC Government agencies responsible for education policy, etc)

The children of the District of Columbia deserve a thoughtful and meaningful proposal developed in the public eye — not the flawed proposal you currently have, which was drafted under a non-existent emergency and without inputs from the D C agencies responsible for education policy

Sincerely,

Michael Musante *Shirley Cooley* *Eve E Brooks* *Jesse Bailey* *Bobbi Blok*
Susie Cambria *Robert Cane* *Debbi Hall*

Jesse Bailey, Pre-K for All DC

Bobbi Blok, Georgetown Children's House Endowment for Quality Early Childhood Education

Eve Brooks, Center for Student Support Services

Susie Cambria, DC Action for Children

Robert Cane, Friends of Choice in Urban Schools

Shirley Cooley, Washington Associations of Child Care Centers

Debbi Hall, DC Association for the Education of Young Children

Michael Musante, Center for Education Reform

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