



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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September 15, 2006

Carol Mitten, Chairperson
D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Re Zoning Commission Rules Regarding the Placement of Charter Schools

Dear Chairperson Mitten and Members of the Zoning Commission.

The Zoning Commission is currently considering a proposal from the Office of Planning (OP) to allow charter schools of 16 students as a matter of right in a R-4 zone. This means that a row house could be used as a school for 16 students without regard to age or size of the house and no community input. I have a concern about the proposed rules as they would affect community input in Ward 6 and around the entire city. Given the often difficult times in finding parking on Capital Hill it is necessary to ensure that the community has a say when a new member of the neighborhood would have a possible negative impact. Parking is a very sensitive issue and certainly before a charter school opens it should take the time to explain to the community how it is going to address that issue.

I strongly suggest that the Commission not make this amendment a matter of right in R-4 zones. Rather it should be the type of neighborhood development that is first sufficiently vetted in the community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please call me if you wish to discuss it further.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ambrose, Chair
Committee on Economic Development

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-06
EXHIBIT NO. 90
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-06
EXHIBIT NO. 92