



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



April 24, 2006

Zoning Commission
c/o Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th St NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Text Amendment—Charter Schools (Case No. 06-06)

Dear Zoning Commissioners,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on March 9, 2006, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A voted 5-0-3 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to support the proposed text amendment to clarify the treatment of public charter schools under the zoning regulations and to require special exceptions for public schools that do not meet certain lot area, lot width, FAR, and lot occupancy requirements in Residence Zones.

The proposed text amendment addresses the concern that placing schools in small, non-traditional locations would expose residential areas to traffic, noise, and cumulative effects from similar facilities. In particular, sites with limited or no setback from nearby residential properties, limited street frontage for student drop-off and pick-up, and limited space for off-street parking could impose inappropriate and objectionable conditions on surrounding residential properties. In the past, similar concerns for private schools in Residence Zones have been addressed through the special exception process.

The proposed text amendment would support the Comprehensive Plan by maintaining the character of existing neighborhoods as well as enhancing public safety. Allowing public schools to be sited on any residential property as a matter of right would eliminate formal opportunities for public participation and community input to alleviate adverse impacts through the special exception process. The proposed text amendment provides a reasonable balance between the need for public schools and the potential for harm to the character of existing neighborhoods resulting from poor site selection. The special exception process is an effective tool balancing these interests and for involving the community in land use decisions.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Commissioner Cody Rice at 202-544-3734. Commissioner Rice has been authorized to present testimony on behalf of ANC 6A.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

RECEIVED

DC OFFICE OF ZONING

2006 APR 28 PM 4:34

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-06
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. 11
CASE NO. 06-06
EXHIBIT NO. 11