

August 13, 2006

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairperson
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Proposed Regulation for Public and Charter Schools

Dear Chairperson Mitten,

I represented the Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Association at the public hearing on proposed regulations for public/charter schools. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to object to the revision of those regulations without providing adequate notice to parties including Associations and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

The elimination of special exception requirements for small public/charter schools in residential zones leaves neighborhoods and neighbors with no opportunity to express their support or concerns of what is happening in their area.

Until now, the current home office/business uses of residences have been effectively managed by our city due to the tight restrictions on the use of residentially zoned properties. These restrictions and supporting hearing processes have provided the necessary neighborhood notice and comment periods in a most effective manner. The proposed change means that residents will have no opportunity to comment regarding a commercial use to be made of a residential property (many charter schools are a business in the truest sense of the word). Another related concern is that without hearing and permitting, there will be no effective mechanism to support oversight or a method by which problem conditions can be corrected.

It is also difficult to understand why the Zoning Commission is not supportive of residential zoning especially in light of the Mayor's stated goal of increasing the population base. New residents need places to live and using a residential property for a school will not facilitate that goal.

The September vote needs to be postponed until adequate time and notice is provided the all concerned parties have time to state their positions in an open public hearing.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Neidich
929 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-06

EXHIBIT NO. 67

cc: President, Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Association

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