

August 15, 2006

Office of Zoning
441 4th Street-NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, D C 20001

To Whom It May Concern

My case number is ZC 06-06 I am writing in opposition to the adoption of clause 401 11. This sentence means that a charter school can rent or buy a house on any block in any neighborhood and, without telling or asking anyone in the neighborhood, open a school for up to 16 students They will of course have staff Residents will have no say in the hours of operation, where the students park if they are old enough to have cars, where they are dropped off and picked up if they are young, limits on noise, and disruptions of normal daily life. Charter schools include pre-school through adult education There are no restrictions on the number of schools that can open on a block or within a certain distance of one another

This regulation allows the non-residential use of residential property as a matter of right Without the special exception process (hearings) the community has no right to comment on what happens in the neighborhood

Given the shambles that the current draft of the Comprehensive Plan is in, and the case by case negotiations that pass for city planning in the District, I understand that the Zoning Board has become a defacto planning board, but this new exemption for charter schools is beyond the pale If the plan is to scare every homeowner so much that they will sell and leave the District, you may succeed Since there are conflict of interest situations throughout the District government, it would not surprise me to know that there is a personal relationship behind this current proposed exemption for "small" schools, but whatever the reason for it, it is a travesty and must not go forward Schools who think that the neighbors will passively accept this kind of invasion had best take care The worm will turn

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