



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

TOMMY WELLS
Councilmember - Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Human Services

Committee Member
Health
Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Arts
Public Services and Consumer Affairs

July 6, 2007

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20004

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2007 JUL 11 AM 11:36

Dear Mr. Cogbill,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Regulations of the District of Columbia to allow temporary surface parking lots on various blocks in the South Capitol Street and M Street SE Corridors (Z.C. 07-08). I was surprised and concerned to find that the site for Washington Canal Park has been included in this temporary rezoning.

As we have discussed, Canal Park is immensely important as it will be the heart of the mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood being created along the Waterfront. Along with vital green space and amenities, the park will feature an innovative storm water management system that will filter and recycle runoff from area buildings, which will be multiplying over the next few years. This park will be a great amenity for the city and the thousands of baseball fans visiting the area -- and neighborhood residents have been eagerly awaiting its construction.

It is crucial that creation of temporary surface parking lots does not impede or slow down the progress of Canal Park. While game day parking plans are very important, we must not lose sight of the greater community and context. Planned amenities for the neighborhood should not be de-prioritized for the sake of creating additional game day parking. According to the proposed zoning amendment, seven different squares would be temporarily rezoned to create 3,775 additional parking spaces to accommodate overflow on game days. The rezoning would expire after five years during which time underground parking garages would be constructed for the new buildings in the area. Site preparation for Canal Park is slated to begin within the next couple of months and rezoning this land is both unnecessary and potentially harmful to the project timeline.

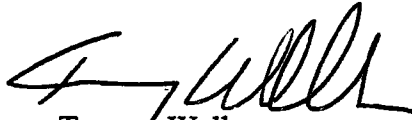
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-08
EXHIBIT NO. 18 (DR14)
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 07-08
EXHIBIT NO. 18

The temporary parking zoning amendment must be modified to include clarifying language to protect the park site from any zoning changes, temporary or otherwise. Specifically, no temporary surface lots should be permitted on US Reservation 17, parcels B, C and D, which are the location of the proposed Washington Canal Park.

Your prompt assistance and response on this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 724-8072.

Sincerely,



Tommy Wells
Councilmember, Ward 6

Cc:

The Honorable Neil Albert, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

The Honorable Kwame Brown, Chairman, Committee on Economic Development

✓ Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair, DC Zoning Commission

Ms. Harriet Tregoining, Director, DC Office of Planning