



Government of the District of Columbia

Office of the Deputy Mayor
for Planning and Economic Development

The Honorable Carol Mitten
Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 Fourth St., Suite 200 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Mitten:

I am writing in reference to Zoning Commission Case 07-08 which will amend DC zoning regulations to allow temporary surface parking lots on specified squares in Southeast and Southwest Washington near the new National's ballpark. I ask that the Zoning Commission approve the amendment on an emergency basis at the May 21st hearing. By taking this action, we can allow adequate parking to be developed to meet the parking demand at the new ballpark when it opens in April, 2008.

Ensuring adequate parking is part of an overall traffic strategy being developed in coordination with the Nationals and the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission. This plan puts a strong emphasis on patron use of public transportation. Utilization of transit will be the key to controlling traffic at the new ballpark. However, parking facilities are also required to meet the demand of the remaining fans that will drive to the games.

Development surrounding the ballpark is underway with some projects completed and others under construction. Yet, development will continue for many years following the ballpark's opening in 2008. Until parcels slated for development start construction, we would like to allow the potential for these lots to be used for surface parking. Adequate parking is essential to controlling the traffic that is anticipated on game days.

We emphasize that these lots will be in place on a temporary basis. As planned development projects move forward, they will be replaced by a mix of development that will include underground parking facilities. The lots will be subject to District environmental regulations and other pertinent permitting requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of this zoning amendment and its quick approval.

Sincerely,

Neil O. Albert
Deputy Mayor, Planning & Economic Development

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 07-08
EXHIBIT No. 9