

Sept 19, 2007

Carol Mitten, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Washington, DC

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Case No. 07-14A Proposed rezoning from M and C-M-2 to C-2-B for proposed lot 817 and lot 56 on Square 3848 and lots 800, 801, and 802 on Square 3854.

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I wish to support the request of ANC 5B03 Commissioner Raymond Chandler for a delay on the rezoning decision until members of the community can familiarize themselves with its ramifications and come to some conclusions about the rezoning proposal.

I attended a Ward 5 planning meeting (August 14), a town hall meeting (August 15), and a meeting at the Noyes School (September 8, which considered various aspects of the rezoning. I think that what looks to the Commission like a routine change is much more complicated from the community's point of view. This community has been treated badly in the past and they are suspicious.

An impromptu day labor center at the site has brought charges of public urination, drunkenness, sexual harassment, and property intrusions. There was a violent confrontation between rival gangs at the site even as we were testifying last Thursday. The proposed official day labor site (first it was the "Multicultural Training and Employment Center," now it's the "Ward 5 Harmony Career Center"), the Waste Transfer Station, the tax effects on the small community to the east, the hulking RI Plaza and the sense that this project will further overwhelm the community. And where's the green space?

I wish to enter into the record the two items I did not submit at the hearing. I am told by lawyers who deal with immigration questions that I should have entered them. So here they are:

1. Federal laws and case law prohibiting hiring of workers not authorized to work in the United States.
2. My statement on behalf of DefendDC in opposition to the proposed day labor center for workers who are not authorized to work in the United States.

A question:: When you rezone, can you specify that certain uses are not permitted, uses such as a day labor center for workers who are not authorized to work in the United States?

A request: If possible, I would like a transcript of the September 13, DC Zoning Commission hearing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Buchanan

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 07-14A

EXHIBIT NO. 21

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