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Madame Chairman and members of the Zoning Commission. My name is William Buchanan, I live at 1230 23rd St. NW and I am speaking against the zoning change on behalf of DefendDC. I will enter a statement on the legal ramifications and limit my testimony to the following:

DefendDC opposes the change in zoning propose in Case No. 07-14A.

The change in zoning from M and C-M-2 to C-2-B, by my reading, opens the area up to almost any use as a matter of right. The resulting mix would include the insertion of a day labor site. This site was originally sold as a \$500,000 "Multicultural Training and Employment Center." When that title proved unpopular, it was renamed the "Ward 5 Harmony Career Center." But a polecat by any other name would smell as bad.

The center is designed as a response to an invasion of undocumented workers seeking employment at Rhode Island Plaza. Complaints of public urination, drunkenness, sexual harassment, and property intrusions are rife.

Since 1986 it has been a violation of federal law to hire or harbor undocumented workers. Since 1996, egregious violators are subject to prosecution under the RICO statutes.

8 USC 1601(6) finds it is "a compelling government interest to remove the incentive for illegal immigration provided by the availability of public benefits."

No public benefit provides as much incentive for undocumented workers as assistance in training and employment. Repeated efforts to find out if applicants for training and employment at the day labor site will be required to prove they are legal residents go unanswered. We must assume then that, as is true of other

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

EXHIBIT NO.

EXHIBIT NO.22

day labor sites, the goal of this one will be to match persons who not authorized to work in the United States with employers who are not allowed to hire them and to do so with the blessing and under the protection of the DC government.

There is no shortage of training programs in this area of Ward 5. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, The Department of Employment Services, and private agencies train and find employment for applicants. The Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency and Face It Together provide such services to ex-offenders who are returning to the area in considerable numbers. Graduates of the newly redeveloped Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School should get an even shot at the new jobs.

There is a market for labor just as surely as for kumquats and Hummers. It's a matter of supply and demand. In the absence of enforcement efforts, unscrupulous employers prefer undocumented workers. In exchange for lower wages, irregular hours, a dearth of benefits, and the competitive advantage over honest employers, criminal employers offer undocumented workers not only pay but priceless opportunities to gain legal status, access to our welfare systems, and the opportunity to bring in their relatives. American workers are disadvantaged by what ought to be their greatest gifts, their citizenship and their families.

Once an employer hires undocumented workers, he is hooked – there is an endless supply of workers back home.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, black unemployment in Washington, DC in 2006 stood at 10.0 percent – far higher than for any other group. Among them are the aforementioned ex-offenders. By one estimate, the Rhode Island NE area will see \$5 billion of development in the next few years. A relative scarcity of labor is the best hope for a decent life for legal residents of the District. A day labor site that

**promotes employment for the undocumented workers
guarantees a sociological disaster instead.**

**The answer to DC's problems start with a declaration that
undocumented workers are not welcome in the District. DC
police should be required to check the citizenship status of those
they arrest and to detain undocumented workers and turn them
over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.**

I ask you not to approve any zoning changes.

Thank you.