

Jason Hesch

Testimony for DC Zoning Commission. 3 minutes

I would like to thank the DC Zoning Commission pause for having this hearing today in recognizing pause an update in our zoning laws pause to reduce congestion and promote pedestrian friendly development.

Looking at any suburban neighborhood today pause we see the effects of the 1958 automobile-oriented zoning code pause on places such as Rockville. ~~has placed on community development.~~

Do we want to continue this type of development? pause In my judgment, pause minimum parking requirement has degraded our city's quality of life pause and replaced aesthetically pleasing landscape with asphalt.

I live in Tenely town.

I prefer to use public transit if I'm heading downtown. The rationale for this pause is the limited availability of street parking pause and expensive parking garages. The proximity of multiple Metro stations pause in the downtown core pause and bus routes that serve my neighborhood, such as the N2 and Circular,

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provides me with an alternative to driving. What we see along Rockville Pike ^{pause} are the very clear effects of parking minimums. Beloved neighborhoods such as Georgetown ^{pause} and ^{Dupont} ~~old town~~ Alexandria were designed ^{pause} without parking minimums. If I had a choice ^{pause} to live in a neighborhood ^{pause} between ^{Georgetown} ~~Alexandria~~ and the suburban landscape of Montgomery County ^{pause} I would prefer ~~Alexandria~~.
Georgetown

I recently attended an open house ^{pause} concerning redevelopment of Tyson's corner. And at that meeting ^{pause} one woman was adamantly against planning for the region. In fact, I think she was against any development whatsoever. This has been a trend ^{pause} I been hearing from residents ^{pause} whenever new development is proposed. New growth has brought traffic congestion. In the minds of the average citizen ^{pause} development is equated with traffic congestion ^{pause} leading to a deterioration of quality of life. I believe this sentiment ^{pause} is in response to the requirement ^{pause} of parking lots with every building, bringing cars. From their perspective ^{pause} they have only seen new development ^{pause} with parking minimums ^{pause} bring more people and more cars.