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Judith Dollenmayer
1517 Elliott Place NW
Washington, DC 20007-2508

jdcomm@verizon.net

202.669.5687

August 12, 2008

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
Zoning Commission
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: ZC Case 08-06-2 Parking Regs. Amendments

Dear Mr. Hood:

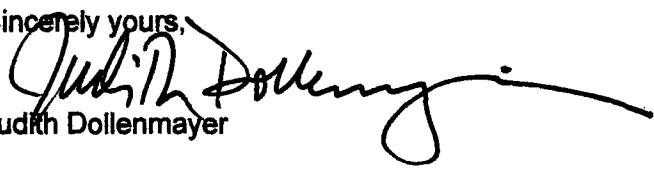
I write to express very strong opposition to the proposed amendments to parking regulations that would permit far more on-street parking in neighborhoods, while requiring developers to provide far less underground or on-site parking at new buildings.

The proposed regulations assume that in less built-up neighborhoods, parking is no problem. Wrong! In the Palisades, where I have owned property since 1980, on-street parking is already tight. Even with residential permits, there is often no place to park on my block after 9 a.m. Since gas prices skyrocketed, more MD and VA commuters, as well as day workers at local businesses and schools, use spaces; the Park Service has allowed DC to restrict parking to 2 hours on their borders by Georgetown Reservoir, increasing the squeeze.

Consider the consequences of just 2 forthcoming projects in Palisades (generally considered a "less built-up" area), if these regulations pass. Sibley Hospital's ongoing expansion, unless they must build multi-level on-site parking, will multiply traffic and parking many-fold on residential streets. The dozens of townhouses that will occupy the old Riverside Hospital site one block from the corner of Foxhall Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. may well produce "guest gridlock" on MacArthur Blvd, a heavy commutation route, aggravating the day-worker parking problem that already exists.

The proposed regulations seem a gift that minimizes costs to builders and developers, while piling costs upon neighborhoods. Any amendments must take account of the fact that public transportation from Palisades (which has no Metro) is lousy. Dependable, frequent bus service, both eastbound and westbound – including mini-buses and shuttles to Tenleytown and DuPont Metros in off-peak hours – is needed before new parking rules could work. I urge you to reject the proposed parking amendments.

Sincerely yours,


Judith Dollenmayer

Cc: Mayor Adrian Fenty
Councilmember Mary Cheh

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-06-2
EXHIBIT NO. 68

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 08-06-2
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