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1816 Burke Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
August 29, 2008

Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20001

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RE: ZC Case #08-06-2, Comprehensive Zoning Regulations Rewrite: Parking

I am writing as a resident of Ward 6 to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to zoning regulation parking requirement. It is likely that, over time, this change will severely limit the availability of street parking for existing residents, which would have a disproportionately negative impact on families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities and other health conditions. This would have the further effect of driving such individuals out of the city and into the suburbs, reducing the diversity and richness of our city and, ironically, adding to the stream of commuter traffic into the city.

I live in Hill East and am fortunate to live just one block from the Stadium Armory Metro. However, my neighbors and I frequently rely on our cars for errands, to travel to places where Metro does not go, or to travel late at night when safety concerns prevent the use of public transportation. The use of cars for transportation is particularly needed for families with young children, our many elderly residents, and those, such as myself, that have health conditions which limit their ability to ride bicycles or walk significant distances carrying packages. (Many persons with such health conditions do not need to use disabled placards but still are limited in their ability to walk for more than short distances, for example.)

I am particularly concerned about this proposal because of the effect it would have on the planned redevelopment of the Hill East Waterfront adjacent to our residential neighborhood. If adequate parking is not provided for the up to 3000 new residential units anticipated on the site, new residents are likely to park on nearby residential streets. It is already difficult to find on-street parking in our neighborhood late in the evening, and the addition of a significant amount of overflow parking from the new development would be very damaging to the neighborhood, with the most potential impact, again, on families with young children, the many elderly persons living in the surrounding neighborhood, and individuals with medical problems.

On a broader scale, the elimination of the parking requirement citywide, even as housing continues to be built, threatens to change the mix of our city residents over time, decreasing its diversity and richness. We may see an increase in young, single, able-bodied residents who do not need cars (but who may then leave the city once they marry and have children), while couples with children, older people, and persons with medical conditions will be more likely to choose to live in the suburbs, and join the flow of commuter traffic into the city.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject the proposed change.

Sincerely,


Elaine A. Perry

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-06-2

EXHIBIT NO. 87
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 08-06-2
EXHIBIT NO. 87

Cc: The Honorable Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Councilmember

TO: Sharon Schellin
Zoning Commission

FROM: Elaine Perry

RE: Case 08-06-2 (Parking)

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