

ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CASE NO. 08-06-3

COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS REWRITE: LOADING

Testimony of Bill Crews, DC resident

And on behalf of

SAVE DC ZONING
A GRASSROOTS NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION ORGANIZATION

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I am Bill Crews, a resident of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in the District, a former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for SMD 6C07, as well as a former Zoning Administrator for the District of Columbia, and a Member of the Zoning Review Task Force. I submit this testimony on behalf of an organization called SAVE DC ZONING.

First, I note that the public has not had a timely opportunity to comment on the Office of Planning August 8, 2008, memo to the Zoning Commission (ZC). I only received a copy of the memo yesterday after failing to find it on any OP or zoning rewrite website and then specifically requesting it from the OP Zoning Review Manager. Other members of the Task force did not receive the memo until today. The public also has suffered from not having the memo available in advance of tonight's hearing.

Therefore, I ask the Commission not take any action this evening and hold the record open for additional comments for at least two weeks.

In light of this time delay, I offer the following general comments.

- Once again OP is proposing changes impacting the quality of life for all residents for the benefits of the development community. There is, like the parking recommendations, no legal connection between OP's proposed loosening of zoning requirements and its reliance on other agencies to solve the fallout and spill over impacts – in this case of blocked streets and sidewalks from inadequate off-street loading requirements.

While OP claims businesses will use smaller trucks, there is no requirement to use smaller trucks, only the savings to the developer from not having to pay the full cost of its impacts on the City and its residents and visitors for inadequate loading facilities.

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- Recommendation 4 drops the current zoning regulations which also require screening from adjoining residential district. Once again OP leadership appears to favor developers and commercial interest over those of the neighborhood residents.
- On the other hand, Recommendation 6 is worthy of support, but needs expanding to include screening from and other protections for adjoining residential districts similar to the current zoning regulations for loading docks to be screen from adjoining residential districts
- I concur in the comments submitted by the Committee of 100

I appreciate the opportunity to present these comments and look forward to providing a more lengthy critique of the August 8 OP memo should the Commission grant my request to keep the record open.

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