

December 10, 2008

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re: CASE NO. 08-06-7 (Comprehensive Zoning Regulations Rewrite:
Campus/Institutional)

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-06-7
EXHIBIT NO. 13

Dear Mr. Hood:

I am writing to register my strong support for the proposed revisions to the zoning regulations governing campus and institutional uses.

I write as an 18-year resident of the Foggy Bottom/West End neighborhood, a former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (2A04), and a participant in this past summer's hearings on revising the zoning regulations.

My term as an advisory neighborhood commissioner coincided with efforts by The George Washington University to draft a new campus plan that would accommodate both its own development needs for the next two decades and the needs of the surrounding residential community.

During the many months of public discussion and debate about the plan that ensued, I found that the officials of the university with whom I worked were unfailingly solicitous of community views and willing to tailor the new plan to make certain that its net effect, to the extent possible, would be to improve the community. But the debate was far longer and more contentious than it needed to have been in part because community residents and university officials were never able to agree on exactly what topics needed to be addressed during the campus plan process.

One of the great practical lessons I--and other members of the community--learned in the course of the protracted debate was how valuable it would be to have a standardized process that applies to planning by all large institutions in residential zones. And the proposed rewrite of the zoning regulations will provide exactly that. It will clarify--for all sides--the rules that govern the review of campus plans.

That's reason enough to be enthusiastic about the revisions. But there's an additional, and no less compelling, reason: The changes recognize how sensible it is to eliminate a

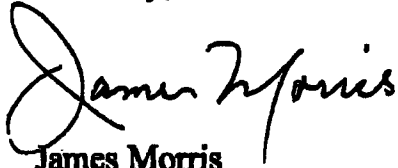
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second-stage review for projects that are consistent with a campus plan. The current dual level of review is simply a great waste of time and resources for all concerned. Let there be a campus plan review every ten years, but let there not be additional zoning reviews every time an individual project is built.

The obvious benefit to universities is that the time they need to develop projects will be shortened. But the benefit to residents of a community will be substantial too, for they will have more time to work constructively with university officials on issues of mutual concern that go far beyond the zoning process.

For these reasons, then, I urge the Commission to give favorable consideration to the proposed zoning regulation revisions. Their implementation cannot come too soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Morris".

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