

Subject: SUPPORT for Zoning Regulations Review, Case No. 08-06A

Dear Chairman Hood and Commissioners:

I wish to voice my support for modernizing the long-overdue DC zoning code. After eight years of thorough public outreach and discussion, it is time to act. I urge you to update to the DC zoning regulations to reduce parking requirements, permit accessory apartments in low density residential neighborhoods, and allow corner stores. While these are modest changes to our woefully outdated 1958 zoning code, they are meaningful ways to make our city more affordable. I urge you to not delay in finalizing the proposed text which is long overdue. We need these reforms urgently in order to respond to the city's continued growth and rising demand for more affordable housing and better transportation choices.

In particular, I wish to express my support for the parking reforms in Subtitle C, which significantly reduce parking requirements near transit, including bus priority corridors. While I think that lessening parking requirements even more than proposed would make housing in D.C. more affordable, the compromise solution that has been developed over many years is a step in the right direction. I also want to state my support the provisions to allow an accessory apartment in residential zones and corner stores, as described in Subtitle U.

These three critical areas of reform to the zoning code will help make DC a more sustainable, walkable, and inclusive city. I urge you to move forward with the long awaited update to the zoning code.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandon Estela
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