

2707 36th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
September 25, 2015

Chairman Anthony Hood
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200-S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Comments on ZRR Case No. 08-06A -Proposed Title 11 DCMR – Zoning

Dear Chairman Hood,

I have been a resident of an R-1-B neighborhood in the District of Columbia for the past 32 years. I write to oppose the proposed changes to the zoning regulations that would eliminate many of the diplomatic overlay provisions and make it far easier for chanceries to locate in residential zones. Our neighborhood is small and until now a treasured, quiet collection of family homes. A busy chancery building has absolutely no place in the midst of such a residential zoned neighborhood. As you well understand, chanceries are offices, with many staff and employees coming and going. Such business use side-by-side with private, single family homes in a residential neighborhood would absolutely have a significant, negative effect on the character of the neighborhood. Traffic, parking demands, noise, and office workers coming and going is an anathema to the type of tranquil neighborhoods the District of Columbia has long cherished.

In particular, my husband and I object to permitting chanceries to locate in any block where the percentage of institutional use is at least 33%. I also object to permitting churches and schools, which are permitted to locate in residential zones as of right, to be included in that percentage calculation. I live in a residential neighborhood with many long-standing religious institutions. A few of these institutions individually occupy more than 33% of their block. The existence of a single, sizeable church, or indeed any religious institutions, should not permit the entire residential character of the block to be dismantled.

ANC 3C, the ANC having jurisdiction over my neighborhood, passed Resolution 2014-13 calling for revision of these proposed provisions, available at http://anc3c.org/?wpfb_dl=255. I urge the Zoning Commission to make the changes requested by the ANC for the protection of the District's residential neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,
Diane B. Cunningham
2707 36TH Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007