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November 4, 2013

Mr. Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW
Washington, D.C., 20001

Re: Testimony on ZC No. 08-06A, Subtitle C – Chap. 21 – Off-street Parking Req.

Dear Mr. Hood and Commission Members:

My name is Nathaniel Baldwin and I am a 43 year resident of Chevy Chase, DC..

My testimony is very supportive of the proposed changes in the DC Zoning Code as they relate to the Off-street Parking requirements. Changes are years overdue to this element of the code as more and more citizens are aware of the destructive nature of a transportation system that places too much emphasis on driving and parking in our city and suburbs. The fact that over 38 percent of District residents do not own cars clearly shows that times have radically changed since the prior zoning code of the 1950s.

Like many DC residents, I live in a neighborhood that is increasing impaired by too much through traffic at all hours, not just in rush hours as it was years ago. The strengthening of travel options with the completion of the Metro system and increasing lanes for bike users have helped but we must move to the next level of effort to facilitate urban travel.

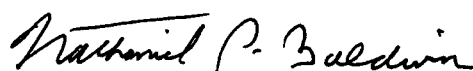
I am especially pleased by:

1. The elimination of parking minimums in the downtown area.
2. The reduction in parking requirements in general, and specifically in areas well served by Metro and bus service.
3. The fact that fewer expensive spaces will need to be provided in many multi-family rental and sale buildings, increasing the possibility of more affordable housing for middle income residents.
4. The encouragement of shared parking spaces.
5. The greater use of car sharing spaces, and counting such spaces against minimums.

I am hoping that the code will continue to be updated in the years to come to continue to at least keep up with the times, if not become an urban leader in the transportation field. Such concepts as parking maximums and better utilization of on-street parking resources deserve consideration in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on this element of the proposed new Zoning Code.

Sincerely,



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.08-06A
EXHIBIT NO.240