

Testimony before the DC Zoning Commission
Regarding: Zoning Commission Case No. 08-06A Subtitle D
By Cliff Majersik, 2802 27th St. NW, Washington, DC
November 6, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I ask that you accept the zoning proposals

1. To allow accessory dwelling units in single family residential zones in homes and accessory buildings like carriage houses and converted garages.
2. To permit corner stores and fresh grocers by right.

I live in Woodley Park with my wife and three children. I've lived in my home since 2001 and in DC since 1992. We own only one vehicle. My thirteen-year-old takes the Metro to Deal Middle School. I walk our two younger boys to Adams elementary school on my way to work and then I bike onto my office. Whenever possible I run errands in the neighborhood on foot or by bike.

Corner stores and fresh grocers contribute to more walkable, safe and livable neighborhoods. They are an amenity to families like mine who want to be able to walk within our neighborhood to buy staples like milk, bread or produce. They make our life easier and more pleasant. Random interactions with neighbors at the store and on the sidewalk en route strengthen our neighborhood community.

Accessory dwelling units also contribute to more vibrant, safe and livable neighborhoods with a diverse mix of ages, incomes, schedules and life experience. More varied demographics makes for more eyes and feet on the street around the clock and a safer neighborhood. My mother-in-law is healthy and independent. But, I'd like to have the option to convert our garage or part of our house to an accessory dwelling unit for her as she ages. Everyone should have this option.

I won't be able to testify at the upcoming hearings. I'd like to commend the Office of Planning on their full package of proposals to modernize the zoning code, including the easing and elimination of minimum parking requirements and steps to make the city more friendly to pedestrians, cyclists and car sharing. I'd like to have seen them go farther with changes to make our city more walkable, safe, green and livable. I think their proposal does a good job of balancing competing interests.

Thanks again and have a good night.