

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Case 08-06A, Subtitle C, Chapter 19
Before the DC Zoning Commission
by Erica Flock, Tenleytown, November 12, 2013**

My name is Erica Flock. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed Zoning Update.

When I moved to DC from Reston, Virginia in early 2012, I brought my car with me: a blue Pontiac Vibe. I really liked that car. As a daughter of southeast Michigan, a place where the Big Three are revered, my first new car was a kind of milestone.

But as soon as I parked it behind my shared house in Tenleytown, it started collecting dust, so to speak. It was more pleasant and less hassle to bike along the Capital Crescent to my job in Bethesda and take the bus and Metro to visit friends around the city.

I realized I was paying hundreds of dollars in insurance a year to keep a rapidly depreciating and unused piece of metal in the back lot and decided to sell it. This month marks the first anniversary of my car-free life and I wouldn't have it any other way. Now the parking space behind our house has a picnic table sitting on it. My two housemates don't have cars either.

DC is a special city. There are precious few places in this country where one can commute and run errands without a car. 63% of DC residents my age get to work without a car. The things that make this city so wonderful: its walkable neighborhoods, its robust transit network, its vibrant street life, are things that aren't served by a zoning code conceived in the era of the automobile.

That's why I'm here to support the proposed updates to the zoning code, particularly the exemptions from parking minimums.

I was surprised to learn recently that the parking structure under DC USA in Columbia Heights regularly has a full level of parking that goes unused, that developers in Brookland don't expect their parking spaces they built to be filled. Why do we demand that developers spend significant amounts of money constructing parking spaces if they know people won't use them? DC residents end up shouldering the burden of these parking minimums in higher living costs.

I wasn't born here, but I love this city and have no plans to leave. I love the festivity of neighborhood days and block parties. I love that I'm constantly running into friends by accident, that the city's special character invites wandering. This quality of life, this sense of community, shouldn't be accessible only to the wealthy.

Please make DC a more affordable and pedestrian-friendly place to live by approving the proposed updates. Thank you.