

TESTIMONY OF CYRIL CROCKER REGARDING ZC-NO. 08-06A, SUBTITLE C-PARKING

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Cyril Crocker, and I am a resident of Ward 5 in the District of Columbia. I have come tonight to state why I feel that reducing the parking requirements for developments in the District is a good idea.

First, I believe our parking regulations should reflect the realities of the community. We simply are no longer a city made up exclusively of car dependent residents. More and more citizens in our expanding population have chosen to seek alternative means of transport. On a personal note, when I turned 16, I had already been taking drivers' education classes at school and had obtained a learner's permit. With a week of my birthday, I had a license and was driving my dad's hand me down car. In contrast, I have an eighteen year old son and a twenty one year old, neither of whom has even gotten a driver's license. They simply don't view it as necessary.

Additionally, the reality is that unlike when I was growing up, the District offers many viable alternatives to car ownership. As our city continues to prosper, more and more neighborhoods are fortunate enough to have retailers beginning to return to them, so there are amenities for residents within walking distance. Mixed use developments bring offices, stores and residents together and reduce the need for long commutes with heavy parking requirements at each end of the trip. Telecommuting options further the elimination of automobile dependence. Internet shopping actually brings back the time when one of the primary reasons for visiting brick and mortar stores is for the social experience, and smart retailers are locating where there is easy access to as many shoppers as possible without having to acquire excess acres for surface parking or incurring needless expense in providing several stories of structured parking that go unused.

With densification encouraged at and near metro stations, residents have access to much of the capitol region without having to own a car, and that is one of the factors making such multifamily developments worth a premium in the market. The dollars invested in the creation of such developments would be much more wisely spent in creating more units of affordable housing than in housing space for when the residents of these units have clearly chosen to live in an environment that supports alternative means of transportation.

Thank you for your time and attention.