

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

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3540 Rock Creek Church Rd NW #101  
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Anthony Hood  
Chairman  
DC Zoning Commission  
One Judiciary Square  
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200 South  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Case No. 08-06A, Subtitle C & D

Dear Chairman Hood and the D.C. Zoning Commission:

My wife and I love DC, and we're committed to raising our daughter in the city. We have been living comfortably car-free for most of our adult lives (we belong to Zipcar and Car2go, but hardly ever use them) and we plan to continue living this way now that we've started a family. As such, we are in strong support of updating the outdated zoning code, particularly in regards to the reduction in vehicle parking requirements and creating reasonable allowances for accessory apartments and corner stores. Both of us have previously lived in Portland, OR, where we witnessed first hand the resultant vibrant urban development in a downtown where parking requirements were discarded (however, we both love DC much more – the people are friendlier, the city is prettier, and the weather is much much better). Making the city more walkable, sustainable, and forward thinking will be a wise step for the city's future.

Particularly for us now, as young parents in the city, we see the importance of prioritizing pedestrians over vehicular traffic. Of course cars have their place in any city, yet we all are pedestrians; even for the mobility restricted elderly and the handicap, a human-scaled density (which DC has) with mixed-use neighborhoods promotes access to daily needs through to close proximity to corner stores. Allowing for accessory dwellings will stimulate needed affordable housing in the house, and help the city tackle its very important equity issues while enhancing its vibrancy.

Thank you for considering this testimony.



Louis L. Thomas