

Joe Wisniewski (ANC 3D10)
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Anthony Hood
Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: CASE NO. 08-06A (Title 11, Zoning Regulations – Comprehensive Text Revisions)

Dear Chairman Hood and the DC Zoning Commission:

My name is Joe Wisniewski and I'm an ANC Commissioner for 3D10 and my testimony does not represent the views of ANC 3D as a whole. My SMD is unusual for ANC 3D, I do not represent any single family homes and all my constituents live in apartment buildings or condos. This gives me a different perspective on the zoning code compared to the rest of my commission. But the main reason I'm here is because I have a dual role in this city, that as a commissioner and as a senior at American University.

DC has become my home and quite a change from being in Indiana. When I first moved here, friends and family in the Midwest were shocked I did not bring a car, the concept of using only mass transit wasn't familiar to them at first. But over time they began to understand. I'll never forget a conversation I had with my elderly grandparents who live in their dream home: a modest house in rural Michigan isolated on a lake. To them, their car keys represented their freedom, without them, they would have no other option and would be forced to give up their dream of living on a lake. The idea that they could walk to a corner store to grab groceries, that

they could move into an affordable apartment without a front yard to take care of, or even easily rent out part of their home to help pay the bills, shocked them.

The reason why I tell this story, is because I don't want any senior citizen in this city to have to choose between their dreams and reality - a decision that will be facing my grandparents as they grow older and lose the ability to drive. The story of my grandparents and other senior citizens I represent shows me that this isn't an issue that breaks down as one generation versus the other. To me the zoning rewrite is about much more than the convenience of being able to bike on a bike lane, walk down to a store, or easily park on a busy street. It's about opening this city and affording its opportunities to everyone. It's about making sure that Alexander, a senior citizen I present and others like him, live in walkable neighborhoods because of businesses like corner stores. It's about a young college student living in an accessory dwelling unit that makes it possible to help pay tuition at American University.

Many people don't pay attention to the zoning rewrite, they don't understand that the zoning code represents the invisible framework of rules and regulations that don't just govern how tall a building is, they don't even just govern the fundamental character of the city, they can given people a chance to live out their dreams, whether it be retiring in this city or being able to afford college in this city. I am here, because these zoning rewrites, after 5 years of discussion, have reached a point where they respect the historical character of the city while paving the way for this city to grow for the rest of 21st century.

Joe Wisniewski