

Zoning Regulations Review (ZRR)
Zoning Commission Case No. 08-06A

February 10th, 2014

To: Board of Zoning Commissioners

Re: Office of Zoning

Written Comments: Notification of Zoning Regulation Changes to the Public

Dear Board Members:

I am submitting my comments as it relates to the notification by the Office of Zoning (OZ), zoning regulation changes to the residents of the District of Columbia. It is my opinion that the Office of Zoning has failed in this attempt. Every registered voter in the District of Columbia should be notified of the changes being proposed to the zoning regulations, that will affect each and every one of us in some form or manner. I realized that zoning laws indicate that you the OZ notify Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Civic and Community Associations and other organizations as well as through social media, etc. However, with these type of major changes to the zoning regulations that are being proposed, every registered voter should have been notified. Many constituents do not have or use computers let alone social media. WE have to make sure that everyone is notified.

My reasons are simple, Community leaders and others can only do so much in notifying their constituents and neighbors and generally a lot of residents don't always come out to meetings. And the hearings that have been held are really a failure on behave of the Office of Zoning. I would like to think that the agency would be deeply concerned about the turnout at these hearing. "What's going on here"? "Something is wrong here, where are the people". I'd like to think that every resources that is available will be exercised. Just relying on community leaders is not enough. **WE EXPECT MORE!** The Board of Election can provide this information. It can be broken down by Ward, ANC or SMD. We are not expecting the entire 1000 pages be sent; but at least the **pertinent issues and changes** that will effect **residential communities** that we live in. Each Ward is unique and that is why it is important that each registered voter should be notified. This is a way of also educating them about the zoning changes and I am almost sure, in fact, I know it would generate more input, questions and concerns as it related to the proposed zoning changes facing our City. What do you think?

I realize that each agency has a budget that is approved each fiscal year to include operating funds, but if the OZ has been working on these regulations since 2006; someone should have budgeted a line item within the budget to add funding to notify the public via mailers. As a matter of fact, with all the surplus that the city has accrued, the agency should have asked for a supplemental budget increase to address these types of situations. I know that it had to be costly to provide the **nice flyers** that were mailed and emailed to community leaders and other organizations notifying us of **upcoming hearing and detailing information on how to prepare for and participate in the public hearings? Where are the residents?**

Therefore, I am seeking the Board's assistance in requiring the Office of Zoning to consider this request for the OZ to provide a mailer notifying the residents via mailers of the extensive changes to the zoning regulations that they are facing in this great city we live in.

Signed

Sandi Washington
ANC Commissioner
ANC5A