

Testimony of
Garrett Honea
500 25th Pl, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Before the DC Zoning Commission

In Support of Case 08-06A on February 12, 2014

Dear ladies and gentleman. My name is Garrett Honea, and I live in Kingman Park at 25th and E NE in ward 7. I am here tonight to emphatically support the proposed update to the DC zoning code – in particular the proposed reforms to parking requirements, corner stores, and accessory apartments.

Today's zoning code reflects the needs of the District in the 1950's. This proposal will help enhance our neighborhoods by improving access to affordable housing and local shops. Eliminating and reducing parking minimums will encourage more walkable, dense, and diverse neighborhoods while improving the West-to-East travel imbalance that plague Metro's cost of service on my daily commute, the Blue and Orange lines. Similarly, the accessory apartment reform will immediately increase the supply of legal housing as well as provide for an increase in income for those with extra space in their homes such as senior citizens. And lastly, allowing for a reasonable increase in corner stores will improve the retail options in neighborhoods like Kingman Park where residents must travel a mile or more for healthy groceries and snacks.

Our 1958 zoning code no longer fits a modern, environmentally friendly, neighborhood-focused city like DC. Subsidizing cars with more expensive rents is not a sustainable policy and further degrades DC's affordability. I love Kingman Park, and as the DC streetcars usher in an increase in development, I sincerely hope the Commission adopts these zoning reforms to encourage development to be smarter, sustainable, and more affordable. The Zoning Commission has a window of opportunity to shape the future of Kingman Park and other DC neighborhoods for generations to come. And I believe this zoning code proposal is a great opportunity to positively impact our quality of life.

Thank you for your time,

Garrett Honea