

September 8, 2014

Steven D. Cook
200 Q Street NE, Apt. 2120
Washington, DC 20002

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

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

Good evening.

My name is Steven Cook. I live in the Eckington neighborhood at 200 Q Street, NE.

I am here to speak in support of the proposed revision to DC's badly outdated and ill-conceived zoning regulations to make this city into an even more vibrant, walkable, and inclusive place that is a model for the nation. Provisions in the proposal to make it easier to create an accessory dwelling unit, reduce parking minimums, create more reasonable procedures for corner stores, and simplifying the zoning code will improve life in the city and help to preserve our social and economic diversity.

I am a member of National City Christian Church on Thomas Circle and active in the Washington Interfaith Network's activities to preserve and expand affordable housing. However, I speak for neither of these organizations and am testifying only in my own behalf.

The zoning code update must reflect and support the priority for abundant affordable housing. To that end, I strongly support the "alternative language"

that matches the September version of zoning update on parking around bus corridors and accessory apartments in carriage houses.

Easing parking requirements along busy transit corridors will help to create and preserve affordable housing. My building is about one year old with two levels of parking under it. Only about a quarter of that parking is in use at any time. This ~~unnecessary~~^{excess} parking increases the cost of housing and is unnecessary. In fact, I advocate eliminating the parking minimum for any new affordable unit. This will encourage the construction of more affordable units. Whole new apartments could be constructed in transit corridors without the expense of deeply excavated parking garages. *38% of DC residents don't own cars. This number is much higher among low-income residents*
In the same way, Better options for homeowners to create an accessory dwelling unit without a long and burdensome process will create more options for affordable housing and enable more people to own homes.

In August, according to the Washington Post, fewer than 6,000 officially affordable units existed in the District. With workforce housing disappearing, the District is becoming a playground for the rich. The zoning code should help reverse this trend.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

<insert signature>



Steven D. Cook