

3430 34th PI NW

Washington, DC 20016

October 27, 2013

DC Zoning Commission

441 4th St NW

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioners,

Regarding the Zoning rewrite, I request that you reject the provisions that would limit the number of parking spaces in the District.

The mayor, to his credit, plans to make DC “age-friendly”, reports the Northwest Current. Yet the rewrite proposals would decrease the number of parking spaces in DC, particularly in commercial areas. That will make it more difficult for residents to park their cars, seriously limiting the mobility of elderly, disabled, and those with young children.

Young adults without children may get around and shopping by bicycle, the bus or walking. Many of us just can’t do that. I and my wife are elders; our arthritis can make walking difficult. We need to drive our cars. My daughter has a handicapped child in a wheelchair. Even parents with non-disabled young children find it nearly impossible to do daily activities without a car.

Furthermore, there is just no need for fewer parking spaces. Supposedly, parking restrictions are intended to limit vehicle traffic. Yet DC has traffic problems for only a few hours on workdays, when suburban commuters drive into the District. The rest of the time, there is no need to limit parking-- traffic moves pretty well. Yet OP proposes to make it difficult for me to park during non-rush hour periods as well. What point is there in keeping me from driving and parking at 7 AM or 8PM, when streets are fairly empty? We need a more focused solution to rush hour traffic problems that “less parking at any time”.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hecker