



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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JACK EVANS
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Chair, Committee on Finance and Revenue

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September 9, 2013

Members of the Zoning Commission
Government of the District of Columbia
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to address the proposed rewrite of the District's zoning regulations. While I understand that certain of the Office of Planning's ("OP") recommendations may be pro forma and actually make some positive change to the outdated rules, I have concerns about some of the proposed changes to the parking regulations. I understand you are meeting today, September 9th, to review the proposed plan presented on July 29th, and I am submitting this letter to express my misgivings with OP's proposed parking minimums.

Throughout OP's drafting and public comment period, I met with a variety of community groups who were actively involved with the zoning rewrite. During our discussions, these groups persistently pressed one point: we need to develop parking regulations using District-focused data. Although OP has evaluated and studied parking policies of other cities, including Portland, there apparently has not been an analysis that focuses solely on the unique circumstances of the District. The District's size and proximity to both Maryland and Virginia make for unique parking needs unlike any other city. I recognize that OP has adjusted its proposal to address concerns raised by District residents; however, I believe that in order to fully develop parking regulations that are best for the District, more data – and more refined analysis – is needed.

I ask that the Zoning Commission consider removing the proposed parking minimums from the plan entirely and – instead – consider requesting that OP develop a fully-researched, data-driven analysis of the parking demands of the District. Moreover, the District Department of Transportation is currently conducting a city-wide examination of the existing parking framework. The purpose of this review is to develop parking policies and practices that will best suit

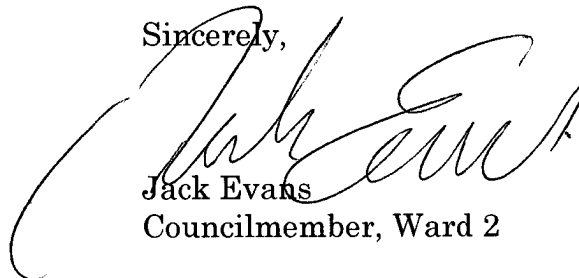
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.08-06A
EXHIBIT NO.6

the city. I believe that, in order to draft ideal parking regulations for the updated zoning code, OP should concurrently conduct an analysis with DDOT. This analysis may very well show that the District needs to adjust its parking minimums to levels currently put forth by OP; however, those needs are not immediately clear because the recent parking proposals are not supported by sufficient data. Thus, it makes sense to remove the parking proposals from the zoning rewrite and, instead, develop a set of policies, along with DDOT, that looks at parking issues coherently and comprehensively.

As members of the Council continue to look into this matter, I am considering several measures, including drafting a resolution that outlines my concerns with the current parking proposals. I understand that the Zoning Commission is a fully separate entity. Nevertheless, I believe that poor parking planning can have disastrous results, including increased traffic gridlock and reduced availability of parking spaces, and that it is appropriate for the Council to express its opinion on this issue. And, in my opinion, it is imperative that a fully-developed, data-driven analysis be conducted to determine what is best for the District. Therefore, I ask that the Zoning Commission consider removing the matter of parking minimums from the zoning rewrite proposals.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Evans", is written over the typed name and title.

Jack Evans
Councilmember, Ward 2

cc: Harriet Tregoning, Director of the Washington DC Office of Planning