

## Lea Landscape Architecture LLC

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February 4, 2014

Mr. 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 C, General Rules, Chapter 17 Green Area Ration

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on the draft comprehensive text revisions to the zoning regulations. I am a practicing landscape architect, with a business based in my home in Ward 6. As a longtime resident of the District I am very proud that our government agencies, including the Department of the Environment, Department of Transportation, Office of Planning, DC Water and Sewer and others have worked so diligently to update our zoning regulations and in doing so have created a progressive set of standards which will serve to make Washington a national and global leader with respect to our treatment of the environment.

The introduction of the Green Area Ratio requirements are a welcome addition as they will reduce storm water runoff, improve air quality and mitigate the urban heat island effect by balancing the amount of hardscape, building and landscape in new developments. It will add tree cover and other landscape elements to our city's landscape, improving our community health and also our visual appeal. I am encouraged that the GAR regulations recognize the key role landscape architects play in the creation of our built environment by identifying them as one of several "Certified Landscape Experts" qualified to prepare the documents required to meet the updated zoning regulations.

I also believe the updated regulations properly reflect the balance we must strike between ease of movement for those traveling by automobile, bicycle, bus, metro or foot by adjusting downward the number of parking spaces required for new development and adjusting upward the requirements for bicycle parking.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marsha Lea, FASLA