

Good evening, Chairman Hood and members of the Zoning Commission, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Kelly Blynn and I have lived in DC for three years. I'm here to express my support for the updates to the Zoning Code, which I believe are essential to setting a blueprint to guide our changing city to be more sustainable and equitable as it grows.

I live with my boyfriend and three friends in a rowhouse in Petworth. We love our neighborhood – we've gotten to know our neighbors well due to the great porch culture, and love being close to several Metro and bus lines. We love the choices for getting around, and we all commute by bike, foot, and transit. I know that some like me can make the choice not to drive to be healthier or more sustainable – but that many more of the 40% of DC households without cars do so out of necessity and the rising costs of housing and transportation in our city.

Conversations over dinner at my house frequently return to the rapid pace of change in DC's housing market, playing out right in front of us in our own neighborhood. We love being in DC and want to be here for the long haul, but are fearful that without action, the city could become a place that only the wealthy can afford.

I believe the proposal to lower parking minimums that is a part of this update is one of many measures we must take to make it possible to build and preserve more affordable housing in the city. A year ago, there was a debate in my neighborhood about this very issue. An affordable housing developer had to seek an exception to build less parking for an all-affordable development right on Georgia Avenue. Building a parking space can easily cost \$50,000 – so building fewer spaces meant being able to go forward with the project, and create more affordable units. When faced with a clear choice of more parking or more affordable housing in a rapidly changing neighborhood, I believe the choice is obvious.

Overhauling the 1950s zoning code is the right move for DC. Moving away from car dependence is not just a fad embraced by young people like myself. It is essential for embracing what I believe are the twin crises of our time: climate change and inequality. By creating a blueprint for DC's future growth that supports sustainable transportation choices and affordable housing, we can simultaneously lower carbon emissions and lessen the high burden of transportation and housing costs.

Thank you for this opportunity.