

Testimony in Support of CASE NO. 09-16 (Text Amendment to Permit Car-Sharing Parking Spaces as a Matter-of-Right Use in the R, CR, and SP Zone Districts)

My name is Liisa Ecola, and I have lived in the District continuously since February 2001. I have owned a house on Capitol Hill with my husband since July 2005.

When I moved to DC I rented an apartment in Woodley Park, and I owned a car. I parked it on the street, and it was often difficult to find parking. When a space opened up in my building, I took it, but it was \$100 per month and I drove only a few times a month. When Zipcar began operating in DC, I believe in 2002, I joined and sold my car.

Now that I am married, my husband and I own one car, which we park on-street. However, I have continued my Zipcar membership. I used it, for example, to get a truck when I bought a desk that didn't fit in the trunk of our own car. We also used Zipcar twice last month when our car was at the mechanic and we learned it was too expensive to repair: once to retrieve our belongings, and then to visit dealerships to purchase a new car. Also, my husband frequently takes our car on weekends to visit his ailing father, and I like knowing that if I need a car I have one readily accessible via Zipcar. Almost all the vehicles I have used have been parked in my neighborhood, which means I can easily walk to them.

I am a transportation researcher at a think tank, so I would also like to share what I know from the academic study of car-sharing. Research on car-sharing in the U.S. has shown that members tend to reduce the number of miles they travel by car up to 40 percent. One shared car can replace five or six privately owned vehicles.¹ Car sharing thus results in fewer vehicle miles traveled, which reduces emissions of both criteria pollutants (such as nitrous oxides and volatile organic compounds) and greenhouse gases. It also means fewer parking spaces are required, which results in more land available for other use and less run-off that potential pollutes water bodies. Review of car sharing policies has not found any potentially negative impacts on the environment or equity.² Car-sharing works best in dense urban neighborhoods where cars are available within a short walk of members' locations, which means residential areas.

As a transportation professional, I have been proud to see the District gain a national reputation for innovative policies such as bicycle sharing, the bicycle station at Union Station, and performance-based parking. As a long-time resident, I purchased a home on Capitol Hill in large part because transportation is so convenient: my husband and I can walk or use Metro for most of our daily trips. For both these reasons, I hope the District will also continue to support policies that facilitate car-sharing, such as these zoning regulations that permit car-sharing parking as a matter-of-right in residential neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Liisa Ecola
911 C Street NE

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

09-16

EXHIBIT NO.

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¹ See Millard-Ball, A., Murray, G., ter Schure, J., Fox, C., & Burkhardt, J. (2005). *Car-sharing: Where and how it succeeds*. Washington, DC: Transportation Research Board, Transit Cooperative Research Program Report 108, Chapter 5.

² Sorensen, P., Wachs, M., Min, E. Y., Kofner, A., Ecola, L., Hanson, M., Yoh, A., Light, T., & Griffin, J. (2008). *Moving Los Angeles: Short-term policy options for improving transportation*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, MG-748-JAT/METRO/MCLA.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 09-16
EXHIBIT NO. 7

Martha J. Mountain.

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of Zoning Hearing Room

441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 220-South

Washington, D.C. 20001

CASE NO. 09-16 (Text Amendment to Permit Car-Sharing Parking Spaces as a Matter-of-Right Use in the R, CR, and SP Zone Districts)

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I live in the Logan Circle neighborhood. The presence of Zipcars in the neighborhood has allowed my household to function easily with only one car.

The ripple effects of this simple change are immense. Having only one car to worry over frees up money, encourages walking and use of public transportation options, and makes me think more carefully about trip efficiencies when I do use a car. Fewer cars on the road on a regular basis, better health from increased activity, more cash in circulation, all these are good things not just for me.

Zoning to make it possible for Zipcar (and/or other car sharing concerns) to operate effectively in as many neighborhoods as possible is wise public policy. Make this work.

Sincerely,

Martha Mountain

Anthony Marinos

From: Andreas Muno [andreas_muno@yahoo.de]
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: Zoning Session on Monday

Hi Anthony,

You may quote me as follows:

To the DC Zoning Commission, in respect of case No. 09-16:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

please approve of the suggested changes to the DC Zoning Regulations. It helps making DC a less congested city full of ever more liveable and enjoyable "green" neighborhoods.

As an environmentally friendly neighbor living on Capitol Hill, I ususally use my bicycle to get to work, to the gym, for grocery shopping, etc. - and don't even own a car. However, there are situations where I need a car, like when the yard needs mulch, or new plants, or I buy new furniture at a cash-and-carry. Knowing, I can rely on a shared car somewhere in the neighborhood improves flexibility for me, while at the same time keeps me as "green" as I prefer to live. Imagine, when this becomes a trend through you allowing it to happen, how much more space for people there will be. Thank you very much, indeed.

Andreas Muno
453 Tennessee Ave
Washington, DC 20002

Von: Anthony Marinos <amarinos@zipcar.com>
Gesendet: Mittwoch, den 16. Dezember 2009, 17:43:53 Uhr
Betreff: Thank you for your support!

Dearest Zipsters,

Your support for this hearing has been unbelievably overwhelming, and we have been blown away by your eagerness to help us out.

There have been some questions about details regarding the regulations and the hearing itself. I have attached the specifics to this e-mail in a word document, but you can also view them at anytime at the [D.C. Municipal Regulations and D.C. Register website](#).

As for written testimonials, we are all for them. If you e-mail them to me, we'll be sure to get them to the Zoning Commission either before or during the hearing. That is the best way to have your story heard, since we're not even sure that they'll be calling on people at the hearing yet.

Thanks again for showing your love for Zipcar. And for those of you that will be attending on Monday, we'll see you at 6:30pm.

Happy holidays to you and yours and keep being awesome.

All the best,

Anthony Marinos

From: Alix Léger [alixleg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 2:44 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: Re: Thank you for your support!

Written Testimonial for Alix Leger

To the members of the D.C. Zoning Commission:

I would like to express my support for any zoning amendments that would allow car-sharing vehicles to continue to park in residential areas. Indeed, I would support an amendment even expanding such allowances.

As a Zipcar user, I, like so many others, have come to depend on car-sharing, and part of what makes it so effective is the proximity in which the vehicles are located to peoples' homes. Keeping the vehicles accessible to users in residential neighborhoods means fewer people will choose to own a car. Fewer car owners ultimately means less emissions and congestion, which is good for the health of the city.

I hope that this and any other testimonials your commission receives in supports of such an amendment will be strongly considered, because I believe car-sharing is one of the ways to make DC the progressive and efficient city it's citizens deserve to live in.

Thank you,
Alix Leger
Capitol Hill resident

On 12/16/09 5:43 PM, "Anthony Marinos" <amarinos@zipcar.com> wrote:

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Thanks again for showing your love for Zipcar. And for those of you that will be attending on Monday, we'll see you at 6:30pm.

Happy holidays to you and yours and keep being awesome.

All the best,

Anthony

anthony marinos marketing manager, washington dc
t: 202.552.5923 | c: 202.821.8102 | f: 202.552.5928
e: amarinos@zipcar.com <<mailto:amarinos@zipcar.com>>

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vancouver · washington dc

Anthony Marinos

From: Donna Sibley [dsibley@sibleyinternational.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:40 AM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: RE: Thank you for your support!

Hi Anthony – My Testimony is as follows:

My personal car was demolished in an accident when a DC taxicab hit me when he ran a stop sign in Georgetown. Under normal circumstances I would have replaced the car. Instead of rushing out to purchase another vehicle, which I would have parked on my residential street in already over-crowded Georgetown, I decided to try being a "Zipster". It's a fabulous invention! And I decided that I did not need to OWN a car. I have a car available when I need it to run errands or attend meetings, and then I can return it to its location. ONE MORE PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE OFF THE STREETS IN DC!

I use Zipcars from my office area downtown and from my home neighborhood. The DC government should do everything possible to encourage "car sharing" by amending the Zoning regulations to allow the shared cars to be parked in residential areas, special purpose areas and mixed use areas. The more convenient the shared cars are to access, the more DC residents and visitors will use them – thus taking many privately-owned and permanently parked cars off the streets. DC needs this!

Thanks you.

Donna J. Sibley
1675 Avon Place NW
Washington, DC 20007
202-342-3943

Donna Sibley
Sibley International LLC
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone (202) 833-9588
Fax (202) 775-9416
www.sibleyinternational.com

Celebrating 21 years of excellence

From: Anthony Marinos [mailto:amarinos@zipcar.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 5:44 PM
Subject: Thank you for your support!

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Anthony Marinos

From: Miriam Isaacs [tabakm28@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 10:04 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: zipcar

Dear DC officials,
Please do everything needed to accommodate Zipcars. I have been a user of the cars since I gave up my own car, almost 3 years ago. If more people used zipcars in combination with public transport the city would be much saner, less prone to traffic jams and parking hassles.

Please do all you can to support this service.

Yours,
Miriam Isaacs
Ordway St. NW
DC

Anthony Marinos

From: Marelise Voss [marethefair@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 7:18 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: Re: Thank you for your support!

Hi Anthony, not sure if I can make the hearing, so here's a written testimonial. ~ Mare

I'm a ten-year resident of the District, and car-sharing has been vitally important to me since 2002. My old car couldn't pass DC inspection anymore, so I donated it to charity and never looked back. I regularly use Metro bus and train service; however, for running errands, visiting family in Annapolis, Maryland, or even getting to work contracts in Virginia or Maryland, ZIPCAR is essential! Since I am self-employed, providing my own transportation to work projects is vital, and I cannot be hired without having some way to get back and forth.

Additionally, I like the safety and security of knowing that, if anything ever happens in DC, I can use my cell phone and Zipcard to find the nearest vehicle to rent and get out of town or get where I need to go.

I ask the Council to maintain and expand regulations that allow convenient parking of Zipcars around the city. Having many cars to choose from right in each neighborhood is the core of how car-sharing works. Thank you.
~~ Mary Elisabeth Voss, 3621 Newark St NW, Washington, DC.

On Wed, Dec 16, 2009 at 5:43 PM, Anthony Marinos <amarinos@zipcar.com> wrote:

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Anthony Marinos

From: Davy, Thomas [Thomas.Davy@fhfa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 5:51 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: RE: Thank you for your support!

I'm a native Washingtonian and I am usually happy with metro and taxis, the reality of being a grownup, however, is that sometimes you need a car.

Simply put, Zipcar allows me not to own a car in DC and always know that I have one when I need it.

Not owning a car saves me money and as I'm happy to stay in the city, I spend my money here in DC.

If I owned a car, I'd feel as if I need to use it and would drive out to the country/suburbs and spend my money there – costing DC jobs.

v/r

CDR Thomas E. Davy, III, MSC, USN

cdr.davy@gmail.com 202-686-0623

thomas.davy@navy.mil (checked weekly)

From: Anthony Marinos [mailto:amarinos@zipcar.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 5:44 PM
Subject: Thank you for your support!

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Thanks again for showing your love for Zipcar. And for those of you that will be attending on Monday, we'll see you at 6:30pm.

Happy holidays to you and yours and keep being awesome.

All the best,

Anthony

anthony marinos marketing manager, washington dc
t: 202.552.5923 | c: 202.821.8102 | f: 202.552.5928
e: amarinos@zipcar.com

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Anthony Marinos

From: David Rubenstein [dcr@best-shot.org]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: RE: Shortened Hearing Tonight

I used to be opposed to residential parking being reserved for individual commercial firms, but later I realized it is a better solution for my neighborhood and for the environment. I was in favor even though I was competing for limited parking spaces and not a Zipcar member.

Since that time, we gave up our second car and joined Zipcar. I've never used it, but I am glad it is available to me.

Dave Rubenstein
2038 18th Street, NW, Apt PH-3
Washington, D.C. 20009

From: Anthony Marinos [mailto:amarinos@zipcar.com]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 4:45 PM
To: Anthony Marinos
Subject: Shortened Hearing Tonight

Hi Zipsters,

I wanted to give everyone a heads up that due to the weather, the zoning commission has called for a shortened meeting this evening. In the interest of sticking to their schedule, they will be limiting the amount of time set aside for public comment. I know that our original message called for you to attend the actual hearing, but in light of this new information it won't actually be necessary. The commission has notified us that the written testimonials will be the most helpful in this situation.

For those of you interested in still contributing, you can do so by e-mailing me a brief statement about why having Zipcars parked in residential areas is so important to you. If you've already sent in a written testimonial, you're a rock star. We really appreciate it.

Obviously, you are all still welcome to come tonight if you choose to do so, but I didn't want you to be confused when there isn't much for you to do at the hearing. Not to mention the snow has made the city streets and sidewalks quite sloppy.

Again, thanks for your amazing support throughout this process, and we hope you all stayed safe and warm this past weekend.

Happy holidays,

Anthony


zipcar.

403 9th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004
t 202.552.5920
f 202.737.4976

FACSIMILE

To: DC Zoning Commission From: Zipcar

Fax: 202-727-6072 Pages: 9 + the cover sheet

Phone: Date: 12/21/09

Re: CC:

☐ Urgent☐ For Review☐ Please Comment☐ Please Reply☐ Please Recycle

● Comments:

The following pages are written testimonies from Zipcar members in support of the new zoning regulations.

Please contact Anthony Mannes at 202-552-5923 if you have any questions.

Thanks

- Zipcar DC

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