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SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 5A11**SLOWE SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLE**

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To: Zoning Commission

From: Janae Grant – Commissioner 5A11

Date: December 21, 2009

ZONING COMMISSION
District of ColumbiaCASE NO. 09-16
EXHIBIT NO. 8**RE: 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: Chairman Anthony Hood

Greetings. As an active Commissioner within the Woodridge area of NE, representing SMD 5A11, we want to weigh in on this matter regarding the potential changes affecting parking. Currently we have some churches, a few businesses that provide parking for the post office, cleaners and a liquor store, auto mechanic shops and some vacant car lots. While on the surface it seems we would have the capacity for car sharing, it's not necessarily a must or a need at this time. Case in point, the auto mechanic shops have parking spaces, but the likelihood that people get together to car share for their individual car needs is not the normal practice. Likewise, to take away a spot from the post office lot that shares spaces with the liquor store, cleaners and a chinese food restaurant is not an efficient way to utilize parking; in essence it has the opposite effect because it takes away a parking spot thus creating less parking for the community at large that patronizes the area for their services.

Ideally, as much as car sharing is starting to take root in the District, it really should be opted on a needs basis and not made a matter of right particularly in the residential zone. The parking lots associated with churches, may already promote car sharing through the usage of their vans that pick up parishioners but technically speaking it's a van or bus and not a car/sedan. Additionally, the thought of car sharing invokes the presence of being ticketed if the incorrect car is in the car sharing parking spot. Furthermore, the typical car that would car share at a church would not necessarily be a Zipcar or a rental car, thus potentially leading to an erroneous ticket.

Secondly, in a residential zone, car sharing doesn't seem to have a time frame, unlike residential parking. Therefore, a potential parking spot is taken away all day and all night, that may not be readily used often enough to warrant a car share spot. This then becomes cumbersome to the neighborhood, because while it may seem alright to park innocently, *during some possible off hours*, the offense could result in the possibility of being ticketed out of utilization and not out of efficiency.

Lastly, in residential areas that are near commercial zones, again the taking away of parking spots in a lot that may be appropriate for car sharing, should be subjected to what the neighborhood wants and deems operable. The likelihood that a deemed car sharing spot will be utilized 100% or even 50% of the time in my area is not the case. We have businesses along Rhode Island Avenue, NE and to put a car sharing spot at a Rita's just doesn't make sense.

5A11 Boundary – Rhode Island at South Dakota to Eastern Avenue, to Bladensburg Road & South Dakota (O), and up to the 22nd blocks of Lawrence, Moore, Newton & Otis Street, NE

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considering the significant value of a parking spot for that business, let alone that area. What may be used as an indirect way of car sharing for the close by businesses to utilize a spot at Rita, would now take away that unspoken right by specifying and labeling one less spot due to matter of right car sharing.

A couple of question came out of this:

- For Sunday worship, is there the potential for tickets to be given out, if the wrong car is in a car share spot?
- What are the hours for a car share spot?
- If in the future this alternative was requested, what is the process, via petition or to come to Zoning?

In conclusion, we would hope to opt out of this petition for car sharing in the residential zone of SMD 5A11 and even in our near by commercial zones, just because it's not necessary for our area nor is it welcome in our area. This alternative needs more educational awareness and understanding in order to be better pursued, not just in my area, but all affected areas that would be potentially harmed by making this a matter of right and taking away and mis-labeling a spot for car sharing that would not get the necessary usage that was intended.

Thank you Chairman Hood for your steadfast leadership and your consideration to our concerns that directly affect the way we work, live and commute in our neighborhoods. We appreciate all that Zoning does to advocate and protect our neighborhoods.

Janae Grant

Thank you kindly,
Commissioner - 5A11
Janae Grant
Grant...It done