



The Downtown Cluster of Congregations

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September 24, 2010

Zoning Commission for the
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 10-18

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of the text amendment proposed in Zoning Commission Case No. 10-18. It is my understanding that this text amendment will expand the types of restaurant uses permitted as preferred uses for the ground floor of developments in Square 375. This expansion will allow fast casual restaurants as well as coffee shops, delis and ice cream shops to occupy the ground floor space of the new development of the First Congregational United Church of Christ at 10th and G Streets, NW, as well as any future redevelopment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

As the Executive Director of the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, I am quite concerned about expanding job opportunities - it is important that retail and other uses occupy ground floor frontage. This proposed amendment will expand the range of restaurant uses that can be located in new developments in this square, which will bring more job opportunities and likely enliven the neighborhood significantly..

I am very encouraged that in this depressed, recessionary times the redevelopment of the First Congregational United Church of Christ site in Square 375 -- in its original location -- is moving forward. It is a noteworthy achievement that a religious congregation has opted to stay in the heart of downtown, helping to meet spiritual and community needs.

In short, I strongly support the proposed text amendment as it will facilitate jobs, community serving uses, and enhanced activity for the neighborhood. I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Respectfully,

Terrance Lynch
Executive Director

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 10-18
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
EXHIBIT NO. 5
EXHIBIT NO. 5

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