



October 23, 2014

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Zoning Commission
of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 14-10
Text Amendments to Chapters 7 and 8 of the D.C. Zoning Regulations

Dear Members of the Commission:

As you know, the District has experienced growth in resident population over the past decade, and with that growth has come an increase in the number of pets housed within the District. The Washington Humane Society ("WHS") supports the text amendments to Chapters 7 and 8 of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations proposed in Zoning Commission Case No. 14-10. The WHS is a Congressionally-chartered animal welfare agency that has operated as the leading voice for animals in the nation's capital since 1870. WHS provides comfort and care to over 43,000 animals annually through a broad range of programs and services, including animal care, housing, and sheltering services; adoption and foster programs; spay/neuter clinics; and humane law enforcement, among others.

The proposed text amendments primarily address issues of the adjacency of animal uses to Residence Districts and residential uses, and specifically relate to the location of animal shelters, and animal related facilities in Commercial and Industrial Districts. As the largest organization impacted by these changes, WHS supports the text amendments because they will help facilitate the location of future, necessary animal care facilities within the District. While the current Zoning Regulations preclude an animal shelter on a site that abuts a Residence District or a residential use, the text amendments would allow these animal shelter uses as a matter of right in an Industrial District, so long as the animal shelter is located at least 25 feet from a residential use in a Residence District. WHS would encourage the Zoning Commission, however, to review the distance restrictions for the external yards and runs for animal shelters in an Industrial District near a residential use. It is essential for successful animal facilities to have the appropriate amount of open space included as part of the overall animal care facility. Flexibility with respect to the external yards and runs within a certain distance of residential use could be governed by restrictions on hours for outdoor activity or on the number of animals permitted to be outside at once.

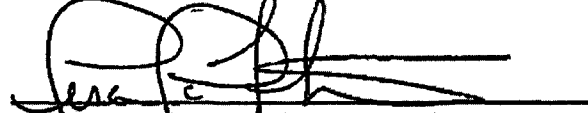
Washington Humane Society
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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Washington Humane Society,
The Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals
CASE NO. 14-10
EXHIBIT NO. 9

It's important that new animal care facilities be located in mixed-use neighborhoods where they can become part of an existing community. The proposed text amendments would provide more flexibility as to the location of animal shelters within appropriate districts and would allow the necessary animal care facilities to expand its programs and services to neighborhoods throughout the District.

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa LaFontaine', is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa LaFontaine, President and CEO