

Good evening,

I'm Marilyn Medrano, resident of ward 4 since 2003 and child care provider in the same ward since 2008
Today I'm here in representation of Estrellitas Child Development Home

First of all I want to thank you for granting me the opportunity to testify and considering the possibility of extending the capacity of Home Day cares in the District

As I mentioned it, since 2008 I and my family have been operating a Home Day Care that - as time went by- started receiving a higher number of enrollment applications. For this reason, in 12/18/2012 I applied for a capacity extension that was in compliance and approved by the ANC of my neighborhood, however, it got stalled as soon as it was received by DCRA

As today several structural changes were made to the location to ensure more space for such extension and to have more families' benefit of the program, but since then I am still waiting to be granted the permission to operate with more than six children in this location.

In consequence, I was forced to find a commercial location that allowed me to serve the families in my wait list, as well as to give another option to families trying to find a place for their children in an area that experiences a high demand of child care services. Therefore, Estrellitas Montessori School opened its doors in November 2013 as Little Star Child Development. Located only 4 blocks away from the Home day Care facility, it counted with an initial capacity for 38 children ages 0 to 6 years. This new process made us put the Home Day Care on hold.

By January 2014, only 2 months after the opening of this new location, Estrellitas reached 85% of its enrollment capacity. At the same time we experienced the pressure of several enrolled families who needed to secure a space for a second child, or otherwise would have to go somewhere else to have their children together at the same place. For this reason, we had to re-open the Home day care to temporarily accommodate the siblings until new spaces were available at the bigger location.

In March 2015 we applied again to have more children 0 to 2 years old at our Home day care location since we currently have license for only up to 6 children. Estrellitas currently has a long wait list that include up to 16 siblings waiting to be enrolled in January 2016. For this reason, Estrellitas along with other child care providers and families desperately need an extension in order to serve our communities and keep families together.

This change to increase the number of children in home settings to 12 will truly assist our family business, our employees and those families that need to consider logistics, cost, and the quality of care they seek for all our children to have.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for this Text Amendment to Case 15-17

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 15-17
EXHIBIT NO. 32
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.15-17
EXHIBIT NO.32