

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Robert & Beth Sewell <r.and.b.sewell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 9:32 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ); anthony.hood@dc.gov; Miller, Robert (DYRS); Shapiro, Peter (DCBC); rwhite@dccouncil.us

February 7, 2018

Zoning Commission  
[441 4th Street, NW](#)  
[Suite 200S](#)  
[Washington, DC 20001](#)

Re: Support for Zoning Commission Case No. 17-20

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of the proposed text amendment known as Zoning Commission Case No. 17-20. As a parent of young children in DC, I have had firsthand experience with the difficulty of finding convenient, quality, and affordable childcare.

Also, I am familiar with the affect that zoning restrictions have on childcare centers and the working parents that rely on them. These difficulties have a ripple effect to local businesses and workplaces that employ the affected parents.

We therefore urge the Commission to expeditiously approve the proposed corrections and reinstate the permitted use for childcare centers.

Also, it is important to note that such zoning restrictions will negatively impact amazing programs such as the one at Curious Explorers on Georgia Avenue. It was with a dream and incredible hard work that the Day Care Director Isatou was able to open such an incredible program. The staff that works there is amazing. My daughter Carter is three years old and has been with them since she was 6 months old. Their program has helped her become such a vibrant and enthusiastic learner. Because of their hard work, Carter knew her colors, how to count and say the alphabet by 1.5 years. By two she could count to 20 in English, Spanish and Filipino. More importantly she learned to share and is very empathetic to her friends and even fish who are impacted by littering (thanks to Miss Amie's conversations with the kids about how littering impacts the environment).

Though I do not know for sure, I suspect that this amazing program costs upwards just to \$7,000 a month to lease the property. In order to secure such high quality staff the director must pay them competitive wages. This compounded with the student to child ratio required by OSSE it would make it impossible for businesses to survive if limited to a maximum capacity of 25 occupants.

Please consider expeditiously approving the proposed corrections and reinstate the permitted use for child care centers. Several hundred parents, day care staff, and children will otherwise be negatively impacted.

Sincerely,

Beth Sewell