

ZC Case No. 25-09

Office of Planning: Text and Map Amendments to Create the Cleveland
Park Neighborhood Mixed Use Zone and New Woodley Park
Neighborhood Mixed Use Zone

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

My name is Barbara Kraft. I'm speaking on behalf of the **WIN (Washington Interfaith Network) Ward 3 Affordable Housing Work Group**, which includes affordable housing supporters from five northwest DC congregations – Temple Sinai; Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church; Adas Israel Congregation; St. Columba's Episcopal Church; and National United Methodist Church. We **support** the new mixed zones in this case.

And, as I'll explain in a moment, I'm also testifying on behalf of myself.

Our WIN Ward 3 Work Group was inspired by Mayor Bowser's October 2019 Housing Equity Report and her goal of building more affordable housing in upper northwest DC. We're far from the goal of 1990 new, dedicated affordable units in upper northwest. But the changes OP is proposing in Case No. 25-09 would at least open the door to building more homes here.

OP's proposal would allow taller buildings, with deliberate and careful transitions to the adjacent neighborhoods. New buildings would have to meet Historic Preservation Review Board guidelines. Building designs would have to be compatible with our historic neighborhoods. The proposal would allow more restaurants, and that would help fill in vacant storefronts and attract more people and businesses. This is exactly what the 2021 Comprehensive Plan amendments contemplated – that we make room for more residential density along commercial corridors. Our WIN Ward 3 Work Group was among many advocates during the Comp Plan amendments process who supported more residential density.

I say all this wearing my “WIN hat.” I also want to speak as a Ward 3 resident. I would love to see more people, more life and more energy in our neighborhoods. I live 3 doors from Connecticut Ave., near Edmund Burke School, on a block that’s a mix of small, medium and large duplexes, many of them home to more than one family. Our windows look out upon apartment buildings on Connecticut Ave. My family, my neighbors and I enjoy the restaurants, shops, fitness studio, retailers and the Cleveland Park Public Library. We love the convenient bus routes and the metro. All of us are looking forward to the new Uptown Theatre – the theatre and adjoining retail spaces have been vacant for years. In other words, there is room for more.

Creating more homes for more people is something I’m excited to support and be part of. My fellow WIN affordable housing activists and I will continue to work for more affordable housing in Ward 3. And we will continue to support proposals, like OP’s in this case, that make it easier to build more homes in Ward 3 neighborhoods.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

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On behalf of WIN Ward 3 Congregations Affordable Housing Work Group
Steering Committee:

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