

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Ishfar Ahmed <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:23 AM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Letter in Support of ZC 25-13 and ZC 25-09

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Members of the Zoning Commission,

Hi there,

My name is Ishfar Ahmed from DC YIMBYs. I live in Ward 5 and I am wanting to write because as an avid urbanist who wants to enhance our urban fabric to enhance this city's already great urban fabric, while making sure that housing costs can stay manageable so that more people can experience it and we can be a thriving community altogether, I am writing to make sure that we can achieve that vision of being able to keep growing and prospering while being able to enhance our urban experience further.

I'm writing to urge the Zoning Commission to approve the Office of Planning's proposed upzoning on Wisconsin Avenue (ZC 25-13) and Connecticut Avenue (ZC 25-09). I'm also asking my Councilmembers to support a broader upzoning in the next Comprehensive Plan.

These targeted rezonings will put more homes—including affordable homes—within easy reach of Metro and neighborhood retail. That means more opportunities for families and seniors, stronger small businesses, safer and more walkable main streets, and progress on DC's climate and equity goals.

This is an important first step, but it doesn't go far enough. I'm asking my Councilmembers to commit to a more vibrant, affordable DC in the Comprehensive Plan. Tell the Office of Planning to:

1. Legalize up to Six Homes on All Residential Lots: Take steps to end exclusionary zoning by allowing up to six homes on every residential lot.
2. Allow Parking Flexibility Citywide: Give homebuilders and local businesses the flexibility to determine parking based on their specific site and neighborhood needs, rather than forcing arbitrary mandates that waste space and increase costs for renters.
3. Promote Transit Oriented Development: Allow buildings to reach 90 feet within ½ mile of Metro stations and ¼ mile of high-frequency bus lines (with automatic expansion when new bus lines/metro stops are added).

Ward 3 has long under-produced housing relative to its access to opportunity. These rezonings—and a broader upzoning in the Comp Plan—will help keep long-time residents, welcome new neighbors, and ensure our local shops and schools thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

—— Ishfar Ahmed

Ishfar Ahmed
ahmedishfar@gmail.com
300 Hamilton Street, #202
Washington, District of Columbia 20011