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ZC 25-09 & 25-13

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To DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-ZCSubmissions@dc.gov>

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 1 attachment (548 KB)

Exhibit264.pdf;

Dear Chairman Hood,

In your opening statement for [ZC Case 25-09](#), you made a few key points, quoted below:

*So I know we've been here a few times...[b]ut what I've noticed that we have done, and what the city keeps doing, is trying to get rid of some of the inequities so people that look like me will be able to get this. Is that kind of—again—we're making another attempt? It seems like we're making another attempt—we're trying to get Rock Creek West for affordable housing. **And I've been hearing that now for a couple of years, and so far, we've failed.** And the reason we failed is not because the city and the Commission and others have not tried. It's because there's been a lot of pushback.*

Despite overwhelming testimony in support of the zoning changes, extensive public hearings, outreach, and sustained community work, Councilmember Frumin has decided to align himself with those who would prefer that we continue to fail. Councilmember Frumin's refusal to take a clear position is not neutrality—it is a deliberate choice to preserve the status quo and block new housing in Rock Creek West.

It is indefensible to support the status quo when the city is in the midst of a housing crisis. Real people are suffering real harms. Endless debate is not democratic, and it is the responsibility of leaders to make decisions and move forward.

The record shows overwhelming support for these changes—approximately 200 letters in support, compared to roughly a dozen in opposition.

The tactics deployed by those opposed betray the weakness of their arguments and the shallowness of their support. These tactics include Councilmember Frumin's late letter, always asking for more time, for more study, for more housing – yes, but not quite like this, as well as a frivolous lawsuit that names, among others, a plaintiff who previously participated in this very process as an ANC Commissioner. Participation in a public process necessarily implies acceptance of its outcome.

How can we expect faith in government when select individuals decide that, if a process does not yield their preferred result, they will simply resort to using their privilege and resources to deny others the opportunities they themselves have already enjoyed?

Why should a select few be allowed extra time to comment when ample time and opportunity was provided to all?

There are a disgruntled dozen who have already been heard; unfortunately for them, they are in the minority. Their comments are already in the record; it's time to move forward.

Thank you  
-Peter

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