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To: Office of Zoning
(202) 727-6072

From: Terra Weirich, Resident
607 Lamont St. NW

Date: 10/25/07

Re: Written notice to testify at public hearing Case No. 06-48 tonight

To Whom It May Concern, this transmission should serve as my written notice to testify tonight at the public hearing of Case No. 06-48. Please contact me with any questions at 703-855-7886. A copy of my testimony is below.

Hi, my name is Terra Weirich and I moved to the neighborhood about 3 years ago because I could see the potential for greatness on Georgia Avenue. A lot of people in this room tonight envision a mix of shops, restaurants and housing that create a vibrant, mixed-use, pedestrian corridor with all components working together to be successful and meet the needs of the neighborhood. The Overlay zoning being considered tonight is an important step toward that vision and toward greatness on Georgia Avenue. It sets forth what I think is a smart balance and strategy between commercial and residential uses – afterall they work together – the neighborhood needs shops, restaurants & jobs to attract residents and the shops & restaurants need residents to keep them in business.

The overlay will help our neighborhood to build a successful business core that is high-quality, pedestrian-friendly and will attract residents to fill upstairs units. Retail requirements will include lots of display windows, buildings built right up to the sidewalk, tall ceilings, rear or underground parking, and security grills that let the light in. The overlay will also give residents, the very important ability to influence new large developments (those on land parcels over 12,000 sf) that seek to move into our neighborhood. A similar clause helped the Macomb-Wisconsin neighborhood achieve compatible uses and revitalization and is a clause that I, along with fellow residents, consider crucial to the Overlay, as this part of Georgia Avenue is fragile with 30-35% of stores sitting vacant, liquor stores literally on every block, and a large strip club.

I attended a Georgia Avenue retail forum 2 nights ago and heard a lot of the great ideas developers, planning professionals & residents had for the corridor. Tonight, we need you, the Zoning Commission, to give us a foundation to carry out those ideas. I urge you to vote in favor of the Georgia Avenue Overlay.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-48

EXHIBIT NO. 27 ZONING COMMISSION

District of Columbia
CASE NO.06-48
EXHIBIT NO.27