

~~Member~~ Chairman and members of the Zoning Commission, Thank you for holding this hearing today. I am Clarence Buddy Moore, a member of the Georgia Avenue Redevelopment Defense Squad, better known as GARDS.

GARDS, which consists of residents within the mid Georgia Avenue Corridor (also known as Park View), was organized in 2006. The Goal of GARDS is to monitor the future development and future maintenance of Mid Georgia Avenue.

On behalf of GARDS, I urge members of the Zoning Commission to approve the Georgia Avenue Commercial Overlay District request, as presented by the DC Office of Planning. We feel that our request is a simple one because the Overlay is what Park View residents desire and deserve.

Over the past 6 months, GARDS members have visited merchants who are currently located within mid Georgia Avenue, to ascertain the business owner's perspectives concerning the future of Georgia Avenue.

We found that the overwhelming majority of merchants were opposed to the construction of large commercial structures on Georgia Avenue. We also found that merchants enjoyed interfacing with surrounding neighborhood residents which accounted for most of their repeat business.

While merchants were dissatisfied with the current streetscape and overall conditions that currently exist on Georgia Avenue (such as: loitering, panhandling, fencing stolen merchandise, littering, illegal drug sales, etc) we found that Georgia Avenue merchants were indeed satisfied with the "small town atmosphere" of the neighborhood.

GARDS members have also communicated randomly with more than 300 Park View residents. And we found that all residents were in favor of a revitalized Georgia Avenue that has a neighborhood character, and will be pedestrian friendly.

We envision a Georgia Avenue that will be respected by all and will provide the amenities our residents deserve. We believe that Park View residents should be able to "shop where we live".

GARDS members are convinced that the Georgia Avenue Commercial Overlay District would allow mid Georgia Avenue to be developed in a manner that would be satisfactory to the current merchants, consistent with the comprehensive plan and would gratify residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

On behalf of GARDS and residents of the Park View Community, I again appeal to the Zoning Commission to approve the Georgia Avenue Commercial Overlay District, as proposed by the DC Office of Planning.

Sincerely,

  
Clarence Buddy Moore

ZONING COMMISSION  
CASE No. 06-48  
EXHIBIT No. 39  
ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.06-48  
EXHIBIT NO.39