

Dear Zoning Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this case. I would like to respectfully submit to you my strong support for the proposed changes to zoning rules, especially what I hope will become 1504.2(c), related to setbacks on roof decks.

The pandemic has made private outdoor space, which is naturally scarce in the center city, more important than ever for our physical and mental health. Thus, my wife and I were devastated when, soon after moving into our new home on S Street NW between 19th and 20th, we found out that the 2017 changes to setback rules forbid us from adding what almost all of the houses on our block have (including the houses on both sides of us)—a roof deck, even though what we hoped to add would be out of sight from the street and thus avoid any negative affect to the historic character we love in the neighborhood.

As parents of a toddler tired of being cooped up indoors, we want our little boy to have a safe place to play outside without risk of infection and had hoped to achieve this with a roof deck (with safe child proof railings of course). The only outdoor space we have large enough for him to play in is the alley behind the house, but it is not a safe place for him because it has lots of foot traffic (people going to shop at Glen's), cars and plenty of exposed stairways to basement entrances that pose a danger. Considering that the pandemic will likely be with us through the spring and summer, we hope you approve the case, permitting us and countless other families to have our little piece of the outdoors for play, gardening, and relaxing in what would otherwise be unused space above our roofs.

Thank you!

Martin Chorzempa

1919 S Street NW

Submitted on 1/20/2021 by:

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