

BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

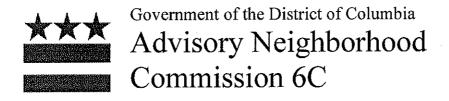


FORM 130 – ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION (ANC) SETDOWN FORM

Before completing this form, please review the instructions on the reverse side.

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Signature of Chai Vice-Chairperson				K	are	er S	.	Nit		D Walle Land Assessment	ate:	6	. 14.	20	18		

ZONING COMMISSION District of Columbia CASE NO. 18-07



June 14, 2018

Anthony J. Hood Chair Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia 441 4th Street, NW Suite 210-S Washington, DC 20001

Re: ZC 18-07 (Square 750 Map Amendment)

Dear Chairman Hood:

We write to provide our views¹ on the potential setdown of the map amendment proposed in ZC 18-07. As explained below, ANC 6C takes no position on whether this matter should be set down for public hearing, but strongly urges the Commission to designate this a contested case.

This map amendment request falls squarely within the definition of "contested case" set out at 11 DCMR Z § 201.2(e). The requesting party owns all four contiguous lots and the issues for resolution involve localized questions of fact rather than broad land-use policy questions. Conversely, the request possesses none of the attributes of a "rulemaking case" as defined in section 201.7(b).

ANC 6C is mindful of the Commission's recent order in ZC 17-17 and the distinction drawn there between cases involving "adjudicative" facts (contested cases) and those that concern "legislative" facts about law and policy (rulemaking cases). ZC 17-17 involved the downzoning of a single lot, and thus the only issues before the Commission were "legislative" facts such as the relevant Comprehensive Plan policies, the FLUM designation, and so on. Because the proposed map amendment could only reduce the allowable intensity of use, the Commission had no occasion to examine localized questions of fact about potential adverse impacts.

By contrast, ZC 18-07 includes an <u>upzoning</u> request (from PDR-1 to MU-5-A) that would permit increased maximum height and, with inclusionary zoning elements, increased FAR as well. The appropriateness of this request therefore turns not merely on consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and FLUM, but also on purely "adjudicative" facts about the theoretical localized impacts of the proposed map amendments.

¹ On June 13, 2018, at a duly noticed regularly scheduled monthly meeting, with a quorum of five out of six commissioners and the public present, ANC 6C voted 5-0 to adopt the positions set forth in this letter.

A contrary conclusion would effectively render section 201.5 a nullity. If this case—involving a compact group of contiguous lots under common ownership, and presenting no broader public policy issues—does not qualify as a contested case, it is hard to see how any map amendment could ever do so.

The public interest likewise favors treating this as a contested case. As the Commission knows, nearby property owners would receive only constructive notice (via placarding and *Register* publication) if this case were to go forward as a rulemaking. See 11 DCMR Z § 502.1. In a contested case, however, all owners within a 200-foot radius would receive individual mailed notice under section 402.1(d). Given the potential for adverse impacts from the proposed upzoning, ANC 6C respectfully submits that such direct notice is essential in this case.

In sum, we take no position on whether the case should be set down for hearing, but urge the Commission—as provided for explicitly in section 201.9—to designate this case a contested case and order that it be handled according to the procedures laid out in chapter 4 of subtitle Z.

Thank you for considering the views of ANC 6C.

Sincerely,

Karen Wirt Karen Wirt Chair, ANC 6C