# ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TIME AND PLACE: Monday, April 1, 2019, @ 6:30 p.m.

Jerrily R. Kress Memorial Hearing Room 441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 220-South

Washington, D.C. 20001

#### FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING:

CASE NO. 19-04 (Text Amendments to Subtitles B (§§ 100.2 & 200.2), C (§ 1500.5), H (§ 1103), K (§§ 410.3, 612.1, & 911.1), & U (§§ 201.1, 250.1, 600.1, & 801.1) (Community Renewable Energy Facility - CREF))

## THIS CASE IS OF INTEREST TO ALL ANCS

On February 7, 2019, the Office of Planning (OP) filed a report with the Office of Zoning that served as a petition proposing text amendments to Subtitles B, C, H, K, and U of Title 11 DCMR (Zoning Regulations of 2016). The text amendments would define a Community Renewable Energy Facility (CREF) distinct from the facilities classified in the "Basic Utility" use category and would permit a CREF as a matter-of-right use in all zones except the MU-11 and SEFC-4 zones, with the size of the CREF subject to the yard and height development standards of each zone.

The proposed text amendment would apply city-wide and facilitate implementation of community solar installations that provide the benefits of solar energy to residents who can't install systems on their residences, including renters, homeowners whose rooftops are shaded or need repairs, and residents in multi-family buildings, by allowing members to receive a credit on their electricity bill each month for their share of a solar installation not located on their residence. Community solar installations are a key component of efforts to meet the target of 100% renewable energy by 2032 included in the Clean Energy DC plan to implement the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Act of 2018. As part of these efforts the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) launched its Solar for All program to reduce the electric bills of at least 100,000 District low-income households with high energy burdens by at least 50% prior to December 31, 2032. DOEE has issued \$13 million in grants under the Solar for All program for community solar installations which must be completed prior to the end of this fiscal year on September 30, 2019.

Although the Zoning Regulations do not specifically regulate solar arrays as a use, community solar installations have been deemed to fall within the "Basic Utility" use category requiring a special exception to operate. DOEE is concerned that requiring community solar installations to obtain a special exception adds delay and expense and would adversely impact DOEE and the District's achievement of the solar and renewable energy targets of the Clean Energy DC plan by potentially jeopardizing the 22 megawatts of planned community solar projects funded by DOEE's Solar for All program.

The Zoning Regulations also do not specifically regulate the location of solar arrays; however, roof-mounted solar systems must comply with the Penthouse regulations found in Subtitle C, Chapter 15 and permanent ground-mounted solar arrays that are greater than four feet in height must comply with the development standards applicable to structures in each zone.

At its regular public meeting held on February 11, 2019, the Commission voted to grant OP's requests to (i) waive Subtitle Z § 400.6's requirement that OP file its pre-hearing report 10 days prior to the public meeting at which the Commission would consider the request to setdown the text amendments (OP's Setdown Report served as this pre-hearing filing), (ii) set down this petition for a public hearing, (iii) waive the 40-day notice period required Subtitle Z § 402.1 to allow a 30-day notice period prior to the public hearing at which the Commission will consider the proposed text amendments, and (iv) authorize the immediate publication of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Commission also adopted identical amendments to Subtitles B, C, H, K, and U on an emergency basis.

### PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT

The proposed amendments to the text of Title 11 DCMR (Zoning Regulations of 2016) are as follows (text to be deleted is marked in bold and strikethrough; new text is shown in bold and underline).

Subsection 100.2 of § 100, DEFINITIONS, of Chapter 1, DEFINITIONS of Subtitle B, DEFINITIONS, RULES OF MEASUREMENT, AND USE CATEGORIES, is amended as follows:

100.2 When used in this title, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed:

...1

Community Centers, Private: A building, park, playground, swimming pool, or athletic field operated by a local community organization or association.

Community Renewable Energy Facility: The generation and subsequent sharing, through virtual net-metering, of renewable energy generated by a community solar energy system financially funded in whole or in part by the Department of Energy and Environment. Community solar energy systems commonly take the form of shared electricity output, which is provided to subscribers. Examples include but are not limited to roof-mounted solar arrays, ground-mounted solar arrays, or solar canopies, but would not include basic utility uses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The uses of this and other ellipses indicate that other provisions exist in the subsection being amended and that the omission of the provisions does not signify an intent to repeal.

<u>Community Service Use</u>: A not-for-profit use established primarily to benefit and serve the population of the community in which it is located.

. . .

Subparagraph (4) of paragraph (f) of § 200.2 of § 100, DEFINITIONS, of Chapter 2, USE CATEGORIES of Subtitle B, DEFINITIONS, RULES OF MEASUREMENT, AND USE CATEGORIES, is amended as follows:

When used in this title, the following use categories shall have the following meanings:

...

- (f) Basic Utilities:
  - (1) The commercial or governmental generation, transmission, distribution, or storage of energy, water, stormwater, cable, or telecommunication-related information;
  - (2) This use commonly takes the form of infrastructure services which are provided city-wide;
  - (3) Examples include, but are not limited to: electrical sub-station, telephone exchange, optical transmission node, electronic equipment facility, sewer plant, water treatment plant, methods and facilities for renewable energy generation, or utility pumping station; and
  - (4) Exceptions: This use category does not include uses which would typically fall within the antennas, community renewable energy facility, or waste-related services use categories;

...

Subsection 1500.5 of § 1500, PENTHOUSE GENERAL REGULATIONS, of Chapter 15 PENTHOUSES of Subtitle C, GENERAL RULES, is amended as follows:

For the administration of this section, mechanical equipment shall not include telephone equipment, radio, television, or electronic equipment of a type not necessary to the operation of the building or structure, or solar canopies on top of a parking garage. Antenna equipment cabinets and antenna equipment shelters shall be regulated by Subtitle C, Chapter 13.

Subsection 1103.1 of § 1103, MATTER-OF-RIGHT USES (NC-USE GROUPS A, B, AND C), of Chapter 11, USE PERMISSIONS FOR NC ZONES of Subtitle H, NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE (NC) ZONES, is amended by adding a new paragraph (r) as follows:

The following uses in this section shall be permitted as a matter of right:

...

- (p) Transportation infrastructure; and
- (q) Daytime care; and
- (r) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 410.3 of Section 410, USE PERMISSIONS (HE), of Chapter 4, HILL EAST ZONES – HE-1 THROUGH HE-4 of Subtitle K, SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONES, is amended by adding a new paragraph (o) as follows:

410.3 The following uses are permitted in the HE zones:

...

- (m) Retail; and
- (n) Service, general and financial; and
- (o) Community renewable energy facility, subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 612.1 of Section 612, USE PERMISSIONS (STE), of Chapter 6, SAINT ELIZABETHS EAST CAMPUS ZONES – STE-1 THROUGH STE-19 of Subtitle K, SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONES, is amended by adding a new paragraph (y) as follows:

The following uses categories shall be permitted as a matter of right in all of the StE zones, except as limited in Subtitle K §§ 613 and 614, or if specifically prohibited by Subtitle K § 615:

. . .

- (w) Service, general and financial; and
- (x) Transportation infrastructure; and
- (y) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 911.1 of Section 911, USE PERMISSIONS (WR), of Chapter 9, WALTER REED ZONES – WR-1 THROUGH WR-8 of Subtitle K, SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONES, is amended by adding a new paragraph (n) as follows:

The uses in this section shall be permitted as a matter of right in the WR-1 zone, subject to any applicable conditions.

...

- (l) Retail subject to the conditions of Subtitle K § 912.10; and
- (m) Transportation infrastructure; and
- (n) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 201.1 of Section 201, MATTER-OF-RIGHT USES – R-USE GROUPS A, B, C, AND D, of Chapter 2, USE PERMISSIONS RESIDENTIAL HOUSE (R) ZONES of Subtitle U, USE PERMISSIONS, is amended by adding a new paragraph (c) as follows:

The following uses in this section shall be permitted as a matter of right subject to any applicable conditions:

. . .

(a) A principal dwelling unit shall be permitted as follows:

. . .

- (3) In the R-Use Group C, the principal dwelling unit may be in either a detached, semi-detached, or an attached building; and
- (b) Clerical and religious group residences for no more than fifteen (15) persons; and
- (c) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 250.1 of Section 250, ACCESSORY USES (R), of Chapter 2, USE PERMISSIONS RESIDENTIAL HOUSE (R) ZONES of Subtitle U, USE PERMISSIONS, is amended by adding a new paragraph (g) as follows:

250.1 The following accessory uses shall be permitted as a matter of right in all R zones subject to the associated conditions:

. . .

- (e) An accessory apartment subject to the conditions of Subtitle U § 253; and
- (f) Other accessory uses, buildings or structures customarily incidental to the uses permitted in R zones under the provisions of this section shall be permitted; including one (1) sale in the nature of a yard sale, garage sale, or home sales party may be held at a dwelling unit during a twelve (12) month period; and
- (g) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 600.1 of Section 600, MATTER-OF-RIGHT USES ON ALLEY LOTS (R, RF, AND RA), of Chapter 6, USE PERMISSIONS FOR ALLEY LOT of Subtitle U, USE PERMISSIONS, is amended by adding a new paragraph (f) as follows:

The following uses shall be permitted as a matter-of- right on an alley lot in the R, RF, and RA zones subject to any applicable conditions:

...

(d) Parking subject to the following conditions:

...

(3) Parking garage on a lot not containing another use shall meet the following conditions:

. . .

- (C) The building shall open directly onto an alley; and
- (e) Residential dwelling, provided that the use shall be limited to one (1) dwelling unit on an alley lot, subject to the following limitations:

. . .

- (5) If the Zoning Administrator or other authorized building official determines that the access from a proposed dwelling on an alley lot is insufficient to provide the intended public safety, hygiene or other building code requirement, the application for the residential dwelling shall be referred to the Board of Zoning Adjustment; and
- (f) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Subsection 801.1 of Section 801, MATTER-OF-RIGHT USES (PDR), of Chapter 8, MATTER-OF-RIGHT USES (PDR) of Subtitle U, USE PERMISSIONS, is amended by adding a new paragraph (cc) as follows:

The following uses shall be permitted in a PDR zone as a matter of right, subject to any applicable conditions:

. . .

- (aa) Waste incineration, including for conversion to energy subjects to the Standards of External Effects in Subtitle U §804, and the use shall not be permitted on any lot located in in whole or in part within one hundred feet 100 ft.) of a residential zone; **and**
- (bb) Wholesale or storage establishment, including open storage, except a junk yard; and
- (cc) Community renewable energy facility subject only to the yard and height development standards of the zone.

Proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations of the District of Columbia are authorized pursuant to the Zoning Act of June 20, 1938, (52 Stat. 797), as amended (D.C. Official Code § 6-641.01, *et seq.* (2018 Repl.)).

This public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the rulemaking case provisions of the Zoning Regulations, 11 DCMR Subtitle Z, Chapter 5.

#### How to participate as a witness.

Interested persons or representatives of organizations may be heard at the public hearing. The Commission also requests that all witnesses prepare their testimony in writing, submit the written testimony prior to giving statements, and limit oral presentations to summaries of the most important points. The applicable time limits for oral testimony are described below. Written statements, in lieu of personal appearances or oral presentation, may be submitted for inclusion in the record.

All individuals, organizations, or associations wishing to testify in this case are encouraged to inform the Office of Zoning their intent to testify prior to the hearing date. This can be done by mail sent to the address stated below, e-mail (donna.hanousek@dc.gov), or by calling (202) 727-0789.

The following maximum time limits for oral testimony shall be adhered to and no time may be ceded:

Organizations
Individuals
minutes each
minutes each

The Commission may increase or decrease the time allowed above, in which case, the presiding officer shall ensure reasonable balance in the allocation of time between proponents and opponents.

Written statements, in lieu of oral testimony, may be submitted for inclusion in the record. The public is encouraged to submit written testimony through the Interactive Zoning Information System (IZIS) at <a href="http://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Login.aspx">http://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Login.aspx</a>; however, written statements may also be submitted by mail to 441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200-S, Washington, DC 20001; by e-mail to <a href="mailto:zcsubmissions@dc.gov">zcsubmissions@dc.gov</a>; or by fax to (202) 727-6072. Please include the case number on your submission. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ZONING AT (202) 727-6311.** 

ANTHONY J. HOOD, ROBERT E. MILLER, PETER SHAPIRO, PETER G. MAY, AND MICHAEL G. TURNBULL ------ ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BY SARA A. BARDIN, DIRECTOR, AND BY SHARON S. SCHELLIN, SECRETARY TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

**Do you need assistance to participate?** If you need special accommodations or need language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please contact Zee Hill at (202) 727-0312 or <a href="mailto:Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov">Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov</a> five days in advance of the meeting. These services will be provided free of charge.

¿Necesita ayuda para participar? Si tiene necesidades especiales o si necesita servicios de ayuda en su idioma (de traducción o interpretación), por favor comuníquese con Zee Hill llamando al (202) 727-0312 o escribiendo a Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinco días antes de la sesión. Estos servicios serán proporcionados sin costo alguno.

**Avez-vous besoin d'assistance pour pouvoir participer?** Si vous avez besoin d'aménagements spéciaux ou d'une aide linguistique (traduction ou interprétation), veuillez contacter Zee Hill au (202) 727-0312 ou à <u>Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov</u> cinq jours avant la réunion. Ces services vous seront fournis gratuitement.

**참여하시는데 도움이 필요하세요?** 특별한 편의를 제공해 드려야 하거나, 언어 지원 서비스(번역 또는 통역)가 필요하시면, 회의 5일 전에 Zee Hill 씨께 (202) 727-0312 로 전화 하시거나 <u>Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov</u> 로 이메일을 주시기 바랍니다. 이와 같은 서비스는 무료로 제공됩니다.

**您需要有人帮助参加活动吗?**如果您需要特殊便利设施或语言协助服务(翻译或口译)·请在见面之前提前五天与 Zee Hill 联系·电话号码 (202) 727-0312,电子邮件 Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov 这些是免费提供的服务。

**Quí vị có cần trợ giúp gì để tham gia không?** Nếu quí vị cần thu xếp đặc biệt hoặc trợ giúp về ngôn ngữ (biên dịch hoặc thông dịch) xin vui lòng liên hệ với Zee Hill tại (202) 727-0312 hoặc Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov trước năm ngày. Các dịch vụ này hoàn toàn miễn phí.

**ለጮሳተፍ ዕርዳታ ያስፈልማዎታል?** የተለየ እርዳታ ካስፈለንዎት ወይም የቋንቋ እርዳታ አንልግሎቶች (ትርጉም ወይም ማስተርጎም) ካስፈለንዎት እባክዎን ከስብሰባው አምስት ቀናት በፊት ዚ ሂልን በስልክ ቁጥር (202) 727-0312 ወይም በኤሜል <u>Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov</u> ይንናኙ። እነኝህ አንልግሎቶች የሚሰጡት በነጻ ነው።