

ZMOD-BOS PUBLIC HEARING

MVCCA TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS---ZMOD

March 9, 2021

Good evening Chairman McKay and Supervisors, my name is Katherine Ward, I live on Gladstone Place in the Mount Vernon District. I am the Cochair of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, (MVCCA) and am speaking on their behalf. The MVCCA's membership is slightly over 10,000 households and we have been a 501c4 since 1969. We care about what happens in the Mount Vernon District as well throughout Fairfax County.

The MVCCA has been engaged in the ZMOD process since its inception and were surprised when the details of the ZMOD changes came to full light in mid Jan 2021.

We subsequently had staff come back to discuss these major modifications with us. We greatly appreciated them taking the time to do that. Their presentation and justifications for many of the staff recommended changes did not sit well with us, in particular giving so much authority to the Zoning Administrator in areas that drastically impact our communities.

After that second presentation we once again sent in comments to our Supervisor and Planning Commissioner.

After watching the Planning Commission's decision only discussion on March 3rd, we are pleased that our interests were taken into account by the Commission. And that their recommendations which, align with our position on ZMOD, have been sent to you for approval.

Their discussion was in-depth, and the debate well thought out. Chairman Murphy's comment was particularly heart felt and important when he said (I'm paraphrasing here) that the motion to accept the staff's recommendations regarding home-based businesses and accessory living units being approved by the zoning administrator took the citizens of Fairfax County out of the process- a historically valued process that the County is highly regarded for.

The MVCCA steadfastly believes that a special permit must be required for home-based businesses and accessory living units. Furthermore, we support the 0 customers for home-based businesses but agree with the continuation of educational and sports classes in private homes based on no more than 8 customers in a day. We do not want signage on residential properties where home-based businesses are operated. We also want the +55 requirement for ALU's to remain in place.

Furthermore, we support the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding establishing a stakeholder task force; a staff evaluation report in 18 months to assess how the County can improve issues related to housing; continuing virtual testimonies; implementing on-line permit application processes; and improvements to all related websites pertaining to application

submissions, BZA processes and how to educate the citizens on the functions of code enforcement and complaints.

We also concur with the Planning Commissions denial of the staff's recommended changes to the flag and flagpole ordinance and urge you to support that decision.

We thank the staff and the Planning Commissioners for their efforts with this complicated issue. And thank you as well in advance.

We look forward to participating in the stakeholder task force. We also look forward to the County expediting the construction of more affordable housing stock based upon the recently approved new AMI structure.

The bottom line is the MVCCA encourages you to deny the staff's ZMOD recommendations regarding Home based businesses and ALU's. We strongly recommend you approve the Planning Commissions modifications and recommendations regarding ZMOD – they will ensure Fairfax County remains a vibrant place for all of us to live and will ensure that all our citizens have an affordable comfortable place to call home.

Thank you for your time I'm happy to answer any questions.