

How to testify in support of a more inclusive, walkable Cleveland Park and Woodley Park

> Sign up to testify in advance at the DC Zoning Commission

1. Sign up online at <https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Home/Kiosk> -



Witness Sign- Up Form

- Select a type: Zoning Commission
 - Select an Event: 12/1/2025 - Zoning Commission Hearing
 - Select a Case: 25-09
 - Testimony type: Proponent
 - Affiliation: PUBLIC WITNESS
 - Add Witness - name, contact info & sign pledge to speak truthfully.
2. Email your comments with the subject header: “Support for Case No. 25-09” to: zcsubmissions@dc.gov
 3. Hearings (always virtual) start at 4 pm, proponent testimony starts after Office of Planning gives a briefing to the Zoning Commission. The hearing can last for awhile depending on how many people are signed up to testify.

> What to say

- Plan a three minute statement (about 400 words) - read your statement if you prefer but look up sometimes.
- As a proponent, clearly state that you generally support what’s being proposed - I support this proposal to upzone along Connecticut Ave. in Cleveland Park and Woodley Park.. I believe we need more housing opportunities in this sought-after neighborhood close to jobs, services and transit.
- Don’t try to be an expert - speak positively from your own personal experience and what motivates you to support this proposal. Talk about a positive vision for the area and city. Speak of shared values like community, fairness, choices, inclusion, affordability, racial justice.
- You don’t have to agree with everything to be a proponent.

- o If you want to recommend changes or improvements to the proposal, still sign up as a “proponent.” State first your overall support, and then say you have suggestions to make it even better. Use positive language.
- Be polite, formal, only speak for your allotted 3 minutes.
- Submit written testimony. We’ll give a model format for written comments.

> General talking points for effective testimony on the Connecticut Ave. rezoning:

- *Opening paragraph: Who are you?* “Good evening, my name is Jane Q. Resident. I live in the [DC] neighborhood. I’ve lived here for X years and been active in my neighborhood/I’m new but love living in DC...
- *Overall statement of support:* I support the proposed rezoning Cleveland Park and Woodley Park business districts on Connecticut Avenue. This proposal will increase/encourage more housing options, including affordable housing, in this high-opportunity neighborhood. It will also create a more lively, walkable, transit-accessible neighborhood.
- *What motivates me:* Talk about how you feel about the city or your neighborhood or why this issue is particularly important to you personally.

You can also note that you never/rarely testify but think it’s important that the Zoning Commission hear from regular D.C. residents like yourself, even if you don’t live in Ward 3, etc.

- o I love living in my neighborhood because I can walk to stores, the Metro, buses, etc., that’s why I thought it important to speak up for more housing and people living in Cleveland Park and Woodley Park.
- o Increasing housing opportunities in Cleveland and Woodley Park Heights gives all DC residents better options - more people can live there, and it relieves some pressure on other parts of the city where new housing is less contested/easier to build. This helps reduce displacement of lower income residents.
- o I don’t have a car because walking, bicycling and riding transit are convenient options. That’s why building near Metro is so important -- many more people would have this opportunity.
- o Welcoming more homes and people to Connecticut Ave. is part of the climate solution to reduce how much people need to drive.
- o Cleveland Park and Woodley Park are desirable neighborhoods that many families and individuals wish they could live in, increasing housing here can help bring down housing costs. Building affordable housing through Inclusionary Zoning and subsidized housing provides even more benefit to building a more equitable city.

- I'm concerned about the vacant storefronts. That's why I support the removal of the restriction on new restaurants. Also, if more people lived along the corridor, we could support more businesses.
- Talk about shared values -- safe, walkable neighborhoods, choices, convenience, affordability, democracy/accountability, community, fairness, inclusion, racial justice
- Environmentally-friendly living: more homes here means more families and individuals can rely on transit, walking and biking for more of their trips and drive less.
- This rezoning is the implementation phase of the Comprehensive Plan Rock Creek West Element and the Connecticut Ave. Development Guidelines. Cleveland and Woodley Park were one of three priority areas in Ward 3 identified for more housing in the Comprehensive Plan.

Do's & Don't's

- Clearly state your support at the outset -- then explain, and add any recommendations for changes or improvements.
- Don't try to be an expert - speak from your personal experience, tell a story.
- Keep focus on shared values – improving our community, fairness, choice, inclusion. Use positive language that paints a picture of what you envision.
- Don't repeat the terms of the opponent, don't argue on their terms
- Avoid abstract or potentially negative words like “density”, “concentrate,” “supply & demand.”

Which comment is more effective? Why?

COMMENT A

I'm here to support this bill because every day, I spend 2 miserable hours in my car commuting from Stockton to Silicon Valley. The most painful part is that I get home at 9 and have barely 30 minutes to spend with my daughter before bedtime. Bathtime, homework help, cooking dinner - I miss it all. Every day I am missing her childhood.

COMMENT B

I'm here to support this bill because it won't create looming towers that destroy communities, as some of the opposition has described. They are lying about this bill. It only allows modest height increases very close to transit, and actually keeps existing height limits everywhere else the law applies.

Source: YIMBY Action

> More info: Want to know the details? Check out the Office of Planning's [report](#) on ZC 25-09.