

Government of the District of Columbia

ZONING COMMISSION



ZONING COMMISSION ORDER NO. 366
CASE NO. 79-11
February 11, 1982

On July 12, 1979 the District of Columbia Zoning Commission initiated action to consider an amendment to the text of the D.C. Zoning Regulations to transfer the review and approval process for college and university campus plans from the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to the Zoning Commission. At that same time the Zoning Commission authorized the scheduling of a public hearing for this case and dismissed previous case dealing with this issue Z.C. Case No. 76-9 (Campus Plan Review - Text Amendment) and incorporated the record of that case into the exclusive record of Z.C. Case No. 79-11.

The Zoning Commission scheduled the public hearing for October 15, 1979, to consider specific proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations. Prior to the public hearing, the Consortium of Universities filed a motion requesting that the hearings be cancelled, and the Citizens Planning Coalition requested a ninety-day postponement.

On October 11, 1979 at the regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Commission, the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) requested a postponement of the hearing because the OPD had not been able to adequately prepare because of problems related to the moving of the agency. The Zoning Commission agreed to postpone the hearing. For various reasons, the public hearing was never rescheduled.

The OPD by memorandum dated May 7, 1980 and on several other occasions, recommended that this case be dismissed pending completion of further work on the Comprehensive Plan.

On January 25, 1982, the Zoning Commission requested the Zoning Secretariat to review all pending cases before the Zoning Commission and make recommendations regarding their disposition. The Zoning Secretariat by memorandum dated February 5, 1982 recommended that the case be dismissed because neither the universities themselves, Advisory

Neighborhood Commissions, or citizens groups have requested the Commission to take any current action. Changes in the Regulations are not necessary now and the case presents no current issue that needs to be addressed. The Commission agrees.

The Commission believes, however, that there is an issue raised by the current regulations that should be addressed at some point. The present control of those campus plans where part of the campus is in a residential district and thus requires BZA approval and part of the campus plan is in a zone district where the college is permitted as a matter-of-right, can lead to difficulties. The BZA has been able to deal with a number of recent campus plans that present this issue, including Howard University and Gallaudet College. However, in the long term, this issue should be addressed by the Office of Planning and Development staff as part of its consideration of amendments to the Regulations.

In consideration of the reasons set forth herein, it is therefore hereby ordered that Case No. 79-11 be DISMISSED.

Vote of the Commission taken at the public meeting on February 11, 1982: 4-0 (George M. White, Lindsley Williams, Ruby B. McZier, and Walter B. Lewis, to dismiss - John G. Parsons, not present not voting).



WALTER B. LEWIS
Chairman
Zoning Commission



STEVEN E. SHER
Executive Director
Zoning Secretariat