

Adrienne Whyte...in the Dranesville District.

I am representing the Ellison Heights Mount Daniel Civic Association, a community of just over 200 homes and myself, all in five minutes. There is no way I can provide a complete evaluation of a 600+ page ZMOD in five minutes. It's too bad. We think it's a flawed proposal.

Our civic association expressed its strong concerns that mirrored those of a majority of county citizens associations regarding ALUs and home-based businesses. We do not want public notice and hearings abolished when such uses are proposed by residential property owners. The Planning Commission recommended that BZA SP hearings continue to be required. I thank the Commissioners who acknowledged the value of citizen input in land use cases. They also recommended that the ZMOD section on flags be eliminated, as I said in my testimony, a solution in search of a problem. Please adopt their recommendations, with the exception of the creation of a landscaper task force to study storage of heavy equipment in neighborhoods, a sure way to degrade Fairfax County neighborhoods.

Home-based businesses with customers and front-yard signs will blur the distinction between residential and commercial zoning, with customers coming and going until 9:00 pm. You should know why people choose to live in Fairfax County. Because we have stable, predictable, and relatively safe residential neighborhoods. Why would you even consider destabilizing the very nature of our county that citizens love and you depend on for tax dollars, particularly as some of the commercial sector is tanking?

Today, you have few resources for Code Compliance to enforce zoning regulations. They often write letters after citizen complaints, but their letters are often ignored. How do you plan to address the free for all you will create if you pass ZMOD. Mr. Chairman, you reportedly said this would make today's illegal uses legal. I hope you were joking.

Based on statements by some of you, I fear that you are not listening to us, your constituents, and after paying millions of our tax dollars to consultants with agendas, you believe that ZMOD is the trendy wave of the future. Several of you have conflated ALUs with affordable housing. There is no such requirement for affordability. In fact, any ALUs created, with the exception of flats for aging relatives, are likely to be market rate, ultimately increasing the density of neighborhoods with no provision for the holistic infrastructure to support them, and in certain cases, damaging the environment. You were not elected to apply social engineering to zoning or to regulate the American flag. When I first read the flags and flagpole section, I acquired an earworm of Bye Bye Miss American Pie. Will this be the day the music died in Fairfax County?

Pushing forward with ZMOD during the covid emergency has ensured that the majority of county residents, who cannot meet under stay at home requirements, have no idea what you're doing. Our ACT4Fairfax survey showed that, as you will hear. Staff and Supervisors like to point to extensive citizen outreach. In fact, citizen input was limited by hostage-like rules for virtual meetings. Before Covid, most of us were never asked for feedback.

We already have a zoning ordinance, and ZMOD has no relationship to the covid emergency that would obligate you to pursue it now. Please put the moving target ZMOD on ice until the emergency is over; citizens associations can meet in person to learn about and consider it; we can go to County buildings to research land use records or meet with staff or yourselves in person, and ZMOD has received a thorough vetting. I strongly believe that you will find little support for anything other than the original purpose the County stated for ZMOD, which included an assurance that no substantive zoning changes would be made as a result of this so-called editorial process. That's what a majority of us who have actually read ZMOD expect, and we have long memories.

I hope you all stay safe and well and that you will help us recover our confidence in your leadership. Thank you.