



TEXT AMENDMENT
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING REUSE

Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

September 25, 2008

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on August 6, 1999, 40 U.S.C. §8724(a), and DC Code §2-1006(a), I find that the proposed text amendment to allow the reuse of closed public school buildings for other uses in Washington, D.C. is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests.

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The Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia has taken a proposed action to approve a text amendment to allow the reuse of 22 public schools that have been closed within the last two years due to student under-enrollment.

The proposed text amendment would allow the following uses as a matter-of-right:

- Child Development and Elderly Care Centers with the condition that they include all such centers, not just those operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The existing language only allows those centers operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Clinics with the condition that they not include substance abuse treatment facilities or a community-based residential facility.
- Community service uses with the condition that they not include substance abuse treatment facilities, a community-based residential facility, or facilities that part of the criminal justice system.
- Community college use with the condition that they must adhere to hours-of-operation stipulations.

- District governmental use limited to one of following alternatives:
 - District government agency uses on the condition that it not include storage, vehicle parking, vehicle maintenance, vehicle impounding, industrial or warehouse use or laboratories. Also prohibits property to be used by substance abuse treatment facilities affiliated with the criminal justice system or community based residential facilities.
 - District government agency administrative office use on the condition that it is limited to administrative offices only.

The proposed text amendment would also allow the following use by special exception:

- any of the matter-of right uses that exceed the established conditions,
- any governmental use that are not included as administrative office and
- non-profit uses

The proposed text amendment has been generally well received by the public. It will allow closed public schools to be repurposed for community use, post-secondary educational use or local governmental use. The Office of Planning setdown report, dated June 9, 2008, states that this text amendment is intended to permit other uses in these schools, while allowing the possibility for resumed school use in the future.

The proposed text amendment is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director