



July 13 2010

Amanda M. Burden
New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Proposed Car Share Zoning Text Amendment

Dear Chair Burden:

The Zoning Committee of the Citizens Housing & Planning Council (CHPC) has reviewed the proposed text submitted by the Department of City Planning (DCP) for an amendment of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York to allow car sharing in New York City. We applaud the forward-thinking vision of DCP to integrate car sharing into the city's parking infrastructure.

It is critical that the Zoning Resolution supports and encourages technological innovation and lifestyle shifts that contribute towards the goals laid out in Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC, to make New York a model for cities in the 21st century. Studies show that easily accessible car sharing programs can lead to a reduction of car ownership and usage, therefore cutting greenhouse emissions and air pollution. Car sharing also has the potential to reduce the strain on parking infrastructure which, given time, could result in less parking needed for new developments. This could reduce the cost burden on the construction of new housing, making it easier and cheaper to build.

In addition to our full support of this text amendment, CHPC would also encourage an extension of these principles once the initial impact of this change can be assessed. We believe that the amendment should be reviewed in five years to keep up with changes in demand and in the structure of car sharing services themselves. We would then ask DCP to consider the following actions in order to ensure that car sharing services continue to be encouraged:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jerilyn Perine

CHAIRMAN

Marvin Markus

PRESIDENT

Mark Ginsberg

SECRETARY

Sander Lehrner

TREASURER

Mark Alexander

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Robert Berne
Shirley Bresler
Robert S. Cook Jr.
Henry Lanier
Frances Magee
John McCarthy
Richard T. Roberts
Gerard Vasisko
Mark A. Willis

Board Members

Sandra Acosta
Debra C. Allee
Frank J. Anelante
Carmi Bee
Alan R. Bell
Matthew Blesso
Robert F. Borg
Howard Chin
Gloribel Cruz
James S. Davidson
Nina DeMartini-Day
Sylvia Deutsch
Ruth Dickler
Elaine Dovas
Martin Dunn
Douglas D. Durst
Erica Forman
Paul Freitag
William Frey
Alexander Garvin
Elliott M. Glass
Alicia Glen
Jerry Gottesman
Amie Gross
Rosanne C. Haggerty
Larry Hirschfield
Kent Hiteshew
William N. Hubbard
Marcie Kesner
Andrea Kretchmer
Carol Lamberg
Deborah Lamm
Michael D. Lappin
Charles S. Laven
Robert O. Lehrman
Jeffrey E. Levine
Mark A. Levine
Kenneth Lowenstein
Marvin A. Mass
Lucille L. McEwen
David McGregor
Howard D. Mendes
Ronay Menschel
Felice L. Michetti
Ron Moelis
Daniel Z. Nelson
Robert Nelson
David L. Pickett
Blondel A. Pinnock
Edward Poteat
Vincent L. Riso
Robert C. Rosenberg
Peter D. Salins
Marian Sameth
Philip Schorr
Denise Notice Scott
Avery Seavey
Paul Selver
Meaghan Shannon-Vlkovic
Ethel Sheffer
Abby Sigal
Jane Silverman
Richard C. Singer
Carole S. Slater
Ann M. Soja
William Stein
Mark E. Strauss
David J. Sweet
William Traylor
Daron Tubian
Adam Weinstein
Alan H. Wiener
David J. Wine
Emily Youssouf
Barry Zelikson
Howard Alan Zipser

- 1.) Allow car share services to provide staff at off-street parking locations. This will allow car share organizations to provide expanded services (for example, a valet service) if they choose to.
- 2.) Increase the percentages of parking spots that can be reserved for car share vehicles across the board, thereby allowing market forces to better determine the amount of parking spots available to car share organizations.
- 3.) Expand the program to include low-density one and two family residential districts. With the exception of accessory parking at colleges or universities in these districts, car sharing vehicles are generally not allowed in these districts. Because there are a high percentage of car owners in these districts, the ability for car share organizations to reduce the number of cars on the road is hindered if these organizations are not allowed to do business in these districts. The availability of car share services for weekend errands or leisure activities may encourage car pooling or reduce the need for households to own more than one car. Tech-savvy car share services may also come up with innovative ways to serve these areas, only to be barred from working there.

Once again, CHPC would like to reiterate our support of the car share zoning text amendment which will contribute towards the city's effort to create a greener New York. We also look forward to the upcoming DCP studies on parking that are being released later this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerilyn Perine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerilyn Perine