

Letters:

To: Public Space Division
Re: Dupont Flowers, 1900 Q Street, N.W.

To: Public Space Division
Re: Gargamelle Corp. t/a Cafe Rabelais, 1647 20th Street, N.W.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on April 22, 1992 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Bass, Meier, Schwager, Shannon and Taylor were present with Mr. Grandis arriving later at 8:15 p.m. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Adoption of the Minutes

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Meier seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 8, 1992 meeting with the following amendments: 1) that the spelling of the last name of the Dupont Circle resident whose death is being investigated, be corrected from Montegal to Montiegel; 2) that the missing item of the victim described by Lt. Van Horn was not a small handbag but a "duffle bag". This motion was passed with Ms. Schwager in abstention and Mr. Grandis absent.

Issues:

I. Election of Commissioner for SMD 02

Chairman Bass introduced Mr. John Pagano, candidate for SMD 02 Commissioner. The letter from the Board of Elections authorizing the ANC to elect Mr. Pagano had not yet been received, but Mr. Bass was informed that the ANC could proceed with his election because no challenges to his petitions had been made.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Schwager seconded a motion to elect John Pagano as the Commissioner for SMD 02 in accordance with D.C. law. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Grandis was absent.

II.

The owner of Dupont Flowers, Remie Abokocole, was present at the meeting to discuss his plans to use the public space outside his store for a floral display. There will be no permanent structures built on the public space. Mr. Abokocole said that there will be a riser constructed on which to display flowers. He went on to say that he would like to be able to keep the riser out at night if possible. Mr. Bass said that would depend on the visual impact of the structure. Mr. Abokocole said that if necessary, he will remove the riser and store it elsewhere when not in use. There will also be umbrellas used outside

which will be taken in at night. There were concerns raised about trash being left out on the curb in the tree box; this is illegal at all times of the day. The owner of Diego's Hollywood Hairstylist, located directly across the street from Dupont Flowers, said that he and Mr. Abokocole have now made an arrangement for trash removal.

Mr. Meier moved and Ms. Taylor seconded a motion that ANC 2B support this application for use of public space subject to one provision: In the event that ANC 2B receives complaints from the neighborhood about structures left on the public space or inappropriate use thereof, the ANC, upon reviewing the complaints, may require the owner to remove the structures from the public space. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Grandis was absent.

III.

"The Resident Parking Amendment Act of 1992" will be discussed at the May 13 meeting of the ANC in order to give all Commissioners time to review it.

At this time Mr. Grandis arrived at the meeting.

IV.

Mr. Andre Lewis, Chairman of the Fraternal Order of the Police (F.O.P.) was present at the meeting to discuss the current police labor dispute as well as other issues. Mr. Lewis came to the meeting to bring the ANC up to date on the dispute and to solicit the ANC's support of the proposed pay raise for which negotiations have been going on for the last two years. Prior to this, the last pay raise for the metropolitan police was in September of 1989. Mr. Grandis said that of course the citizens want the police to be well-funded and highly professional and asked Mr. Lewis where he thought the revenue for the proposed \$31 million pay raise would come from. Mr. Lewis suggested that it could perhaps come from more property and business taxes. Mr. Bass commented that ANC 2B has consistently opposed pay raises for city employees until 2,000 mid-level managers have been eliminated and until there have been measurable and significant increases in productivity by city workers. Mr. Lewis also addressed concerns raised by Mr. Grandis concerning the relationship between the police and the Gay and Lesbian community. Mr. Grandis pointed out that within the past year the security of the Gay and Lesbian community has been threatened. He referred specifically to the 17th St. Halloween incident and the recent arrests for sodomy. He asked Mr. Lewis if the rank and file in fact support the diversity of the city. Mr. Lewis said that there is a younger police force today and, unfortunately, a lot of the officers are immature and he knows that comments have been made about Gay citizens that should never have been made. He went on to say that training is needed for officers on how to deal with the Gay community and total commitment from management is needed to rectify the situation. Tracy Conaty, Chairman of GLOV (Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence) was present at the meeting and said that GLOV is currently involved with Gay and Lesbian sensitivity training and would like to speak with Mr. Lewis about the possibility of getting a program started with the metropolitan police. Mr. Grandis also suggested that in an effort to unite the gay and lesbian community with the police, the F.O.P. could set up a booth at the next Gay Pride

Day and invite Gay and Lesbian groups to meet with the F.O.P. The Commission thanked Mr. Lewis for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Reports

Ms. Schwager asked whether or not the ANC would support using its name in a petition that the residents around 1767 P Street are going to sign in protest of the BZA application #15676 to use that property as law offices. Mr. Bass said there would be no objection as long as the wording of the motion taken by the ANC on that matter is used.

Ms. Taylor reported that Capt. Swope asked her if it would be appropriate for him to continue announcing commendations for police officers at the ANC meetings. On behalf of ANC 2B, Ms. Taylor said that he should continue to do so. Also, Ms. Taylor reported that she has been receiving letters (some anonymous and some not) concerning the ANC's handling of 1312 21st Street and pointing out other possible zoning violations in the area such as at 1813 19th St., N.W. She said that she would like to respond to these letters and will draft a response for the other commissioners to review. At this time, Mr. Grandis brought her up to date on 1813 19th and said that city inspectors (Vincent Ford, Mr. Neil, and Mr. Shelton) met with Dudley Canada and the owners of this property. After inspecting the property, they found that there were no inconsistencies between the plans that were submitted and the work that had actually occurred. This issue will be further discussed at the next ANC meeting on May 13.

Mr. Bass reported that he received a letter from Councilmember John Ray thanking the ANC for its comments on the legislation he proposed to amend the ABC law related to notice given to ANCs and the quality of information ANCs receive from the ABC Board. Also, the letter pointed out that Councilmember Ray incorporated the ANC's suggestion that the ABC Board should send ANCs regular mailings listing the ABC licenses in their area that are due for renewal in the next six months.

Mr. Meier reported that after having had several conversations with William Newman, Chief of Maintenance with the National Capital Park Central, concerning the installation of new benches in Dupont Circle, he was successful in getting Mr. Newman to commit to a date when the work could be started and completed. Mr. Newman told Mr. Meier that he would be starting the work on April 21st and would complete the project in about three weeks.

Mr. Grandis reported that the ANC had recently gone through a city audit and that he will need to sign a bank confirmation notice to check that all information for the ANC account is accurate. He went on to say that in regard to grants, the auditor informed the ANC that they should first have the applicant write a letter of request and then send the applicant an application. Mr. Grandis said that he thought this was already the policy of the ANC and asked that the staff coordinator send the auditor's office a copy of the ANC 2B grant policy. Also, the contract for the previous staff coordinator, Nancy Melville, for the months of October 1989 through July 1991, when she left the ANC, can not be found. The staff coordinator will look into locating the contract. Mr. Grandis also reported that

the Washington Halfway House for Women, located in his SMD, is now officially going through the BZA process and he would like to invite them back to the ANC before their hearing date. Lastly, Mr. Grandis reported that he ANC bank balance to date is \$13,112.83.

Old Business:

Mr. Bass reported that Cafe Rabelais, 1647 20th St., N.W. has applied for an exemption regarding the location of the railing around the premises. The following motion was then made:

Mr. Bass moved and Mr. Grandis seconded, a motion that ANC 2B strongly opposes the application by Gargamell Corp. t/a Cafe Rabelais, 1647 20th Street, N.W., for a waiver from the requirements of DCMR Title 24, Section 204.1 to provide a clear pedestrian passageway of 10 feet at all points between a sidewalk cafe railing and a tree box or curb. The applicant's existing rail and awning supports were extended illegally onto the public space and reduce pedestrian passageway to less than four feet along a very heavily travelled portion of Connecticut Avenue, N.W. The railing causes a significant adverse impact on pedestrian traffic and interferes with the character and design of the side walk and streetscape. The only purpose of this illegal use of public space is to increase the seating capacity of the cafe. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bass announced that on May 26, 1992 there is going to be a meeting sponsored by ANC 2B with the ABC Board. The meeting will take place at St. Thomas Parish in the downstairs parlor and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Bass reported that he had received a copy of the "Business Improvements District Act" which has been introduced by Councilmember Jack Evans which enables groups of merchants to unite and assess themselves for collection of fees to improve such districts. We will invite the Councilmember to our next meeting to discuss this bill. He also referred a copy of the "Recycling Amendments Act" bill to Ms. Schwager who is the head of the Public Works committee for ANC 2B and asked that she look into it and give the ANC a recommendation. Finally, Mr. Bass informed the ANC that the Public Service Commission is now notifying the ANC of any applications for the installation of public pay phones in the Dupont area and referred the most recent notice (2035 P St., N.W., and 1529 Connecticut Ave., N.W.) to Ms. Taylor and Mr. John Pagano to follow up since these areas are within their SMDs; the ANC authorized Commissioner Taylor to convey a decision for the ANC to the PSC on these two phones.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shannon
Martha Shannon (H.S.)
Secretary, ANC 2B