

Letters:

To: Deputy Chief Larry D. Soulsby
Re: Street robberies on Church Street

To: ABC Board
Re: ABC Application No. 2301, t/a Berose Beverages, 1711 17th Street

To: BZA
Re: BZA Application No. 15624, St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church

To: BZA
Re: BZA Application No. 15626, 1767 P Street Associates

To: HPRB
Re: 1312 21st Street, N.W.

To: Joseph Bottner, Zoning Administrator
Re: 1312 21st Street, N.W.

To: Complaint Division, DCRA
Re: investigation into the conduct of architect and contractor for 1312 21st St., N.W.

To: Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly
Re: increase in individual income tax rates

To: Chairs of ANC's 1D, 2A, 2E, 3B and 3C
Re: notice to the affected ANCs, of foreign nations interested in purchasing or leasing property, or constructing or renovating a building.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Bass, Grandis, Schwager, Shannon and Taylor were present.

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He announced that (unofficially) Harry Meier had been elected Commissioner for 2B03 and Nancy Hatfield-Bellinger for 2B02. A crime report was given by Sergeant Trainer of the third district police. Harry Meier, gave an update on the work that both he and Captain Moore of the third district have been doing to try and put an end to the street robberies that have been taking place on Church St., N.W. It was suggested that the ANC write a letter to Deputy Chief Soulsby asking for his help in this effort by: 1) continuing surveillance of the Church St. area; 2) providing a plain clothes decoy to help apprehend the offenders; 3) helping to organize a neighborhood crime watch; and 4) posting alert posters in the area with a sketch of the offenders to warn all residents and non-residents.

Adoption of the Minutes

Ms. Taylor moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 8, 1992 meeting with the following amendment: that the paragraph on the last page under Commissioner reports be amended to read: Ms. Taylor reported on the property at 23rd and N Street, developers plan to purchase the property but the community wants it to be used as open space. This motion passed unanimously.

Issues:

I.

Applicants for the ANC grants to non-profits were present at the meeting, gave a short presentation, and responded to questions. The applicants included: School for Friends, whose representative Jim Clay, was unable to attend the meeting, Green Door, Foundry Housing Corp., Emmaus Services for the Aging and the 18th Street Park Assoc. whose representative was also absent from the meeting. ANC Treasurer, Ed Grandis, informed the applicants that the budget for the grants is \$950. Commissioner Shannon suggested that in the future, all applicants include the budget and/or financial report for the organization with their application. There will be a section added to the grant application requesting this information. The grants will be awarded at the February 12, 1992 meeting of the ANC.

II.

The prospective buyer of Berosse Beverages, 1711 17th St., N.W., Mr. Han Tok Yi, was present at the meeting. He gave a short presentation and responded to questions. Mr. Yi has applied for a transfer of the retailer's class "A" license for Berosse Beverages. Mr. Yi stated that there will be no change in the operation of the business when the transfer of ownership is granted. Commissioner Shannon informed Mr. Yi that the ANC would like to include a voluntary agreement with the transfer of the new license. Mr. Dennis Gaugler, a resident of Dupont Circle, was present at the meeting and presented comments on behalf of neighbors of Berosse Beverages, including: 1) the beer kegs stacked in front of the building should be removed, because not only do they utilize public space, but they are used as benches for inebriated people at night 2) the wall at the back of the store needs to be repaired because it is a safety hazard 3) large oil drums used to store oil for heating are a potential fire hazard 4) the trash shed needs to be repaired to ensure proper trash storage, and garbage pick-up should be more frequent because of the threat of rat infestation 5) the sale of half-pints should be restricted and plastic cups should not be sold.

Ms. Shannon moved and Mr. Bass seconded, a motion that ANC 2B opposes ABC Application No. 2301, t/a Berosse Beverages, 1711 17th Street, N.W. for a Retailer's Class "B" License, because of the impact of this establishment on the peace, order, and quiet of the surrounding residential neighborhood. However, ANC 2B has every expectation that it will be able to reach a

Voluntary Agreement with the Applicant, to be submitted to the Board at the roll call hearing on this case on March 4. This motion passed unanimously.

Because of the lack of notice for this agenda item, Mr. Yi and neighbors are invited to the February 12 meeting of the ANC 2B to discuss this issue further.

III.

Mr. Luis Salgado and Mr. Epps, representatives for St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, were present at the meeting. They gave a short presentation and responded to questions. Also present were neighbors of St. Luke's Church who presented a petition stating their support for the Church and request that the Church repair the brick wall that borders Church St. and replace the chain link fence. It was also requested that the lighting on the Church St. lot be increased. Another resident suggested that better storage of the Church garbage is needed. Mr. Salgado and Mr. Epps agreed to these terms and conditions and the following motion was made:

ANC 2B supports BZA Application No. 15624 for a special exception to continue to operate a parking lot in an R-5-B District at 1514-20 Church Street, N.W. and 1503 P Street, N.W. provided that the conditions in the Board's previous order are continued in a new order in this case, and provided the following conditions are added to the new order: 1) Applicant will repair the existing brick wall bordering Church Street, 2) will remove the chain link fence bordering Church Street and replace it with a continuation of the brick wall, 3) will increase lighting on the Church Street lots, and 4) will properly store trash in accordance with D.C. law. This motion passed unanimously.

IV.

Mr. Paul Reneau, owner of the property at 1312 21st Street, N.W. was present at the meeting, presented plans for the building, gave a short presentation and responded to questions. Mr. Reneau maintained that he did not know the architect and contractors he hired had illegally obtained work permits for his property. Mr. Jeremy Waletzky, a resident of 1310 21st Street, was also present at the meeting and gave a short presentation restating his concerns over the illegal construction that has taken place at 1312 21st Street. Mr. Waletzky stated that he first came before the ANC in July 1991 voicing his complaints against the illegal construction. He requested that no further work be done to the property and that the decks be removed.

Ms. Taylor moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that Dupont Circle ANC 2B strongly urges the Historic Preservation Review Board to consider the application for 1312 21st Street, N.W. as a new application, to be considered solely on its merits, without regard to any previous (and illegal) construction. ANC 2B requests that the Board rule that any alterations visible from either 21st Street or Newport Place, N.W., including the fourth floor addition, the flues, all skylight windows and all decks are inappropriate and incompatible

with the neighborhood, and should be removed. Any new construction should be consistent with the neighborhood. This motion passed unanimously.

It was also requested by Commissioner Grandis that a letter be sent to Joseph Bottner, Zoning Administrator, concerning the granting of a variance for 1312 21st Street, without prior BZA approval. A letter to the Complaint Division of the Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs requesting an investigation into the conduct of the architect and contractors in this case was also requested.

V.

Commissioner Schwager informed the ANC of the plans of the 1767 P Street Associates, BZA Application No. 15626, to convert townhouses on 17th Street into law offices. The representative for 1767 P Street, Mr. Dennis Cotto, was invited to the meeting but chose not to attend. The ANC is concerned about these plans because the 1700 block of P Street is the only block off Dupont Circle that still remains residential. ANC 2B wants to preserve residential housing in the area.

Ms. Schwager moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that the Dupont Circle ANC opposes BZA Application No. 15626 for a special exception in a SP-1 zone to use property for law offices because such change is not compatible with the zoning in the area. The property had previously been residential. The 1700 block of P Street is the only block off of Dupont Circle that remains solely residential. We oppose the special exception on that basis and because such a change is expected to create undesirable effects on traffic congestion and noise. We hope the BZA will not contribute to any further loss of residential property in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. This motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Bass reported that the Jewish Community Center will come before the ANC in March to present their historic preservation designs for the exterior of their building at 16th and Q Streets.

Commissioner Schwager thanked Craig Pascal for his help with getting the sidewalks on P Street repaired.

New Business:

Commissioner Bass brought to the attention of the ANC the "Safe Streets Forfeiture Act" introduced by Councilmember Jack Evans and it was decided to discuss this proposal at the next meeting. Mr. Bass then addressed Mayor Kelly's proposal for increases in individual income tax rates.

Mr. Bass moved and Mr. Grandis seconded the following motion, to be sent

to Mayor Kelly:

Dupont Circle ANC 2B strongly urges that the Mayor not propose an increase at any level in individual income tax rates as a method of balancing the fiscal 1992 or 1993 budgets. This ANC has consistently maintained that income tax and residential property tax increases should not be considered until 2,000 mid-level managers have been eliminated as promised in your election campaign, and until there have been measurable and significant increases in productivity by city workers. Neither of these conditions has been met. Further, it is unconscionable to request income tax increases when large salary increases for police, fire, and union workers are about to be enacted which will add \$20-40 million to the existing budget shortfall this year. This motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shannon
(H.S.)

Martha Shannon
Secretary, ANC 2B