

FINAL

Letters:

To: Mayor Kelly
Re: Halloween 1992

To: Council Chairman, John Wilson
Re: Repeal of Sodomy Law

To: Larry Tunisan, General Manager, Radisson Park Terrace Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Re: Public Space application and neighbor complaints

To: George Mallios, Owner, Trio's Pizza
Re: Double parking problems

To: Mayor Kelly
Re: Selection of new Chief of Police

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE
ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled meeting on September 23, 1992 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Grandis, Shannon, Bass, Meier, Schwager and Taylor were in attendance. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Pagano arrived later at 7:40 p.m. Sergeant Ronald D. Wilkins of the third district gave a police report. Chairman Bass asked Sergeant Wilkins if he was aware of a mugging and beating that took place near 15th St., N.W. Sergeant Wilkins said that yes, he was aware of the incident and responded to the scene. No arrests have been made in that case. Chairman Bass then requested that more patrols be assigned to that area. Mr. Grandis reported to Sergeant Wilkins that a gentlemen called the police when his car was broken into at 1706 R Street, N.W. and after waiting an hour and a half, no patrol car ever arrived. He requested that Sergeant Wilkins investigate into whether or not a patrol did arrive on the scene and when. Sergeant Wilkins said he would look into it and get in touch with Mr. Grandis.

During the Open Forum, Norman Blumenfeld, representative for the bicycle messengers in Dupont Circle was present at the meeting to respond to any recent problems anyone may be experiencing with the messengers. He also said that he felt the earlier meeting between the ANC and the messengers was very helpful in starting a dialogue. Chairman Bass said that he knew of only one recent complaint of a fight that took place near Farragut Square between two bicycle messengers. Mr. Blumenfeld responded that the fight in fact took place between one messenger and another man who was not a messenger. He said that apparently the fight had begun the night before between these two gentlemen and they continued it at the Square. Mr. Bass said that there are a lot of problems going on in the Circle and that the ANC is not trying to single out the messengers. He went on to say that the park belongs to everyone and that certain restrictions need to be applied, for instance, drinking of alcoholic beverages in the park is illegal. One messenger commented that he too, thought the last meeting was helpful but that he was still very upset over the Park Police confiscating bicycles. By doing so, he said lots of people lost their employment.

James Raydack of the Office of Constituent Services commented that the judge in those cases ruled that the Park Police were wrong to confiscate the bicycles, and rather should have only fined the messengers. Commissioner Meier said that he had not heard of any recent complaints concerning the messengers and warned that there has been a rash of bicycle thefts in the area. He cautioned all messengers to have their bikes registered. Mr. Blumenfeld commented that having your bicycle registered will not help in getting your bike back if it is stolen. He suggested that perhaps the ANC should look into a change in the registration law. A continued dialogue between the ANC and the messengers was encouraged to avoid any further problems.

Jeff Dawson and his partner, owners of Bedrock Billiards located on Columbia Rd., N.W., were present at the meeting to inform the ANC of their plans to locate a new billiard establishment in the space that was formerly Chicago's. Their plans include applying for an ABC license to serve beer and wine. They said that they know the apprehension of the ANC given the history of Chicago's, but they are more than willing to work with the ANC to resolve any problems beforehand. The ANC asked to be kept informed as things progress.

A resident informed the ANC and those at the meeting of an oversight hearing that Councilmember Lightfoot is having September 30 regarding Pepco's request for a \$30 million rate increase. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the District Building. Chairman Bass stated the ANC would send its letter to the Public Service Commission opposing the Pepco increase to Mr. Lightfoot for the hearing.

Adoption of the Minutes

Ms. Shannon moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 9, 1992 meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC with the following amendment:

Mr. Grandis asked Mr. Pocter of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, "other than the ANC, and Foggy Bottom and citizen's groups, have any other organizations or institutions, like universities, been involved in looking at the plans [for the renovation of the Francis Pool]?" Mr. Pocter responded, "no we don't normally do that. There isn't the time frame to lend the plan to universities and other institutions. We are really on a short schedule." This motion passed unanimously.

Issues:

I.

Mr. Tom McSorley, Development Director for the Whitman Walker Clinic was present at the meeting to discuss the plans for the Halloween 1992 event on 17th Street, N.W. The plans, in part, include:

- * closing off 17th Street between P and R Streets for the event which will take place from 7-11 p.m.
- * 25 person volunteer security force
- * games and concessions
- * the annual High Heel Race

He reported that to his knowledge, there has been no opposition to the petition to close 17th Street. Mr. Grandis asked about clean up after the event and Mr. McSorley said that all clean up will be taken care of by the Whitman Walker Clinic crew. Next, Mr. Grandis asked about the sale of beer at the event and Mr. McSorley said that they are applying for all the necessary permits to sell alcohol. Since the event is to be T.V. broadcast, there were some concerns that lots of people would be attracted to the event just to get on T.V. The ANC, therefore, discouraged advertising that the event is to be broadcast. There were also concerns that the hostility that took place last year between the police and partygoers would reoccur. Mr. McSorley said that he has spoken with Tracy Conaty from GLOV who has been working with the police on sensitivity training. Commissioners agreed that a letter should be sent to the Mayor, reviewing the efforts of the neighborhood to avoid a repeat of last year's incident and requesting that the city take the necessary precautions.

II.

Mr. Mark Elbaum and Mr. Dale Murray of the Radisson Park Terrace Hotel 1515 Rhode Island Ave., were present at the meeting to discuss the public space application for an outdoor cafe. Residents for the General Scott Condominium which is located behind the Hotel at One Scott Circle, were also present at the meeting to inform the Commission of numerous complaints and problems with the operation of the Radisson. Currently, on an existing rear deck of the hotel, food and alcohol are served and noisy Kareoke nights are held. The residents of the General Scott had complaints about the smell of food being cooked outdoors on the rear deck, noise from the kareoke nights, and especially of the deck itself, stating that it is incompatible with the surrounding area. There were also complaints about the pick up of garbage before 7:00 a.m. and loud noise from employees working outdoors with maintenance equipment as well as other complaints. Mr. Bass informed the representatives from the Radisson that he asked the ABC whether or not the Radisson had a license to serve liquor on the rear deck. Also, there was no permit obtained to build the deck. Therefore, in light of the numerous complaints from the neighbors and the illegal service of alcoholic beverages and construction of the deck by the Radisson, Mr. Bass asked the applicants to withdraw their application at this time. He also asked the Radisson representatives to work with the neighbors to agree to an application that is mutually acceptable and one that the ANC could support. Also, the Radisson was asked to stop all external outdoor music, ask the garbage haulers not to pick up trash before 7:00 a.m. and that there should not be any deliveries before 7:00 a.m., and finally employees should not do outdoor maintenance activities before 9:00 a.m. Chairman Bass asked that the Radisson representatives notify him of their agreement to these requests by close of business 9/25/92. Failing that, the following motion will be forwarded:

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that ANC 2B oppose issuance of a public space permit to the Radisson Park Terrace Hotel Outdoor Cafe, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., because the design and location of the proposed cafe are not compatible with other uses in the surrounding area: specifically the noise and pedestrian traffic caused by the cafe will interfere with the peace, order and quiet enjoyment of more that 200 residents of the General Scott condominium building located within 20 feet of the proposed cafe. Additionally, other laws have

not been complied with by applicant -- notably building permits and ABC license restrictions and applicant has evidenced a disturbing pattern of non-cooperation with affected neighbors that indicates this establishment will not be conducted in a manner compatible with the immediately adjacent residential areas (One Scott Circle and 1500 block of O Street). This motion passed unanimously.

III.

Mr. Bob Schwartzberg of BFI Waste Systems was present at the meeting to discuss complaints of BFI garbage trucks operating before 7:00 a.m. specifically at the Quality Inn and the Radisson Hotel. Mr. Schwartzberg said that BFI is allowed to start before 7:00 a.m. in commercial areas but if there are complaints of early pick up in Dupont residential areas adjacent to commercial areas, then he will put a stop to it. Mr. Bass asked Mr. Schwartzberg what the policy of BFI is for overflowing dumpsters. Mr. Schwartzberg replied that the driver is to call in to the office and report an overflowing dumpster and the office will contact the customer and ask if they wish to have the dumpsters emptied more often. He also told the Commission and those present of a device called a "watchdog" which can be attached to a dumpster and will register the time the dumpster is emptied. This, he said will give them the information they need to ensure that the drivers aren't picking up trash before 7:00 a.m. Mr. Schwartzberg gave the ANC his card and said to contact him with any future problems.

IV.

Mr. Brian Maney, Treasurer of the Citizens for Campaign Finance Reform, was present at the meeting to discuss Initiative 41, the "D.C. Campaign Contribution Limitation Initiative of 1992". Mr. Maney informed the Commission and those present that a hearing for this initiative will take place October 8.

Commissioner Pagano left the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

V.

The discussion of the ANC 2B FY1993 budget was tabled until exact figures for next year's budget could be obtained from the city. The budget will be discussed at the next ANC meeting, October 14.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion that for the month of October the expenditures duplicate the budgeted expenditures for October of last year. This motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Schwager reported that in response to a resident's complaint about the Brookings lot, she contacted Brookings and parts of the front lawn have been mowed. The mower ran out of gas, so the job was not finished at that time, but will be soon. She also reported that she has received complaints that the Malaysian Embassy's grass is not being taken care of, so she is going to contact them. Ms. Schwager informed the ANC that

she checked into the applications for the installation of payphones south of the Circle and found that they are needed. Therefore, she said there were no problems with the applications.

Commissioner Taylor reported that the Mayor's Agent hearing for 1312 21st Street, N.W. was canceled until Monday September 28. She asked if anyone could attend the hearing in her place. Staff Coordinator, Hollie Saiz will attend the hearing on the ANC's behalf.

Commissioner Bass reported that he wrote a letter to Council Chairman John Wilson reiterating the ANC's support for passage of the Panhandling Control Act, Bill 9-80. He also reported on a meeting with representatives from the ANC, DCCA, and DCMAP to discuss suggested budget expenditures for the repairing and renovation of the Dupont Circle area.

Commissioner Shannon reported that she sent a letter to the owner of Trio's regarding complaints she has received about delivery cars double parking on Q Street, N.W.

Commissioner Meier reported that he sent a letter to the HPRB reiterating the ANC's position on the renovation of 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., and requesting the HPRB to put 11 Dupont back on the calendar taking into consideration the ANC's concerns.

Mr. Grandis reported that he thought the time is right to send a letter to Council Chairman John Wilson requesting that it repeal the Anti-Sodomy law.

Mr. Grandis moved and Mr. Meier seconded, a motion that ANC 2B send a letter to Council Chairman John Wilson suggesting that there is a window of opportunity between now and the end of the year to act on repealing the anti-sodomy law. This motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Mr. Bass reported that he received a response from Hampton Cross, Administrator of the BLRA, that a courtesy list will be sent on a weekly basis to the chair person of ANCs 1D, 2A, 2B, 2E, 3B and 3E regarding notification of impending relocations of foreign mission offices in their areas.

Mr. Bass moved and Mr. Grandis seconded, a motion to send a letter to Mayor Kelly urging her to consider for the District's new Chief of Police all available and qualified candidates through a nationwide search. This motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha T. Shannon

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Secretary, Dupont Circle ANC 2B